

Critical Comment

New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses



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Message from the Chair

Welcome to this edition of the Critical Comment newsletter.

When I wrote my report for the last newsletter, we were in the midst of a Covid-19 wave earlier this year and again facing uncertainty regarding what that would mean both for us personally, and professionally as an ICU workforce. Now we are looking (and hoping) to be towards the end of this pandemic, we have moved into the phase where Covid-19 is part of business as usual for us in ICUs. I would like to recognise our Auckland members. You have borne the brunt of Covid -19 in New Zealand and we thank you for your hard work and dedication over this time.

I know from talking to members around the country that as a nursing workforce, things are tough with substantial staff shortages, perhaps currently being more of an issue than ever previously. As a committee we are very aware of that and are trying to use our voice to bring awareness to our situation and advocate for improvements.

With the recent spotlight on intensive care across the world throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, this has provided the opportunity to highlight the deficits in the provision of intensive care services across New Zealand. The college has been able to highlight the deficits and inequities in both intensive care capacity and our intensive care nursing workforce. The ongoing work with the Critical Care Sector Advisory Group to the Ministry of Health/Te Whatu Ora has helped to address some of under resourcing and weaknesses in our system. Each hospital has funding for clinical coach and nurse educator to help with on boarding new staff and supporting the education needs of our novices, as well as extending those with more experience into their next career challenge. A rewarding part of the work we do is seeing this extra funding be used in units nationwide to make a difference not only for ICU nurses now, but also benefit ICU nurses in the future. These roles are being employed into now. If you are not seeing this in your area, or have questions, please get in touch with me.

The media interest in critical care and critical care nursing was intense earlier this year, and personally I am pleased that this has settled down. I have tried to use these opportunities to highlight the challenges we face both as nurses and in critical care. The media interest in recent months has been more relevant to the general nursing pressures and this has been more appropriate for NZNO to discuss.

The Dunedin ANZICS regional conference in November was very successful. The NZCCCN awarded a number of scholarships to attend. Thank you for your continual hard work and resilience despite challenging working conditions. I hope you are enjoying some warmer weather and less rain as we are getting into spring. I invite your questions or comments for our committee. Please email us criticalcarenurses@gmail.com

Tania Mitchell
Chairperson NZCCCN

Message from the Editor

This edition presents a little introduction to most of the NZCCCN committee members. Also, you will find an advertisement of our NZCCCN study day next year in Dunedin (When things go south), some scholarships will be available. Soon there will be a special edition of Critical Comment with content relating the November's ANZICS regional conference in Dunedin. This content will be covered by the NZCCCN members who were awarded scholarships to attend the conference

David Aveyard
Editor & Vice Chairperson NZCCCN

Introducing Tania Mitchell Chairperson

I have been on the NZCCCN committee for 4 years now, taking over the chairperson role in 2021. I currently work as an associate charge nurse manager in Wellington intensive care unit, where I have worked for about 16 years. I trained at Nelson Polytech, but found myself moving to the big smoke of Wellington to be able to get a new grad job in a hospital. Apart from a few years in the UK and a brief stint in Australia, I have worked all my nursing years in Wellington Hospital. I find ICU nursing a challenging and rewarding place to work, with so much to learn and many opportunities.



My role within the college has developed from a passion and drive to help promote the health and wellbeing of both our patients and whanau, in addition to a safe and rewarding career for nurses where they can thrive.

As chairperson, college work keeps me busy and on my toes. There is a lot of new learning and opportunities for me, and many aspects of the role take me well outside of my comfort zone. I see my role as an important one to advocate for both nursing and critical care nursing, and try to seize all opportunities to represent our members and promote and enhance the work that we do.

Introducing David Aveyard Editor and Vice Chairperson

My name is David Aveyard I am vice chairperson for NZCCCN and new editor of the Critical Comment. I have been nursing since 2000 and have worked in ICUs since about 2006. I have worked in Wellington, Auckland and now in Waikato ICU where I am presently an ACNM. I have also worked as a PAR/outreach nurse at Wellington and Waikato hospitals. I have always enjoyed the challenges that nursing in ICU presents, and the amazing teamwork required to ensure safe holistic care is provided to both the patient and their Whanau. I have been on the NZCCCN committee since early 2021 and represent the Midland's area. I joined the NZCCCN committee to help promote and provide a voice to all ICU/critical care nurses within the Midland's area and New Zealand, and recognising this very difficult and challenging health environment we all practice in. I have learned so much about the professional arm of NZNO and hope to continue to learn in this role.



Introducing Rachel Atkin

Treasurer

Born in the UK.... Liverpool. My parents immigrated to Tauranga in 1972.

All my schooling was done here in Tauranga and as a 17-year-old I headed across to Taranaki to do my nursing training (1987-1989). I came back to Tauranga Hospital for 18 months as a brand-new RN and



worked in a surgical ward. At 21 I headed to the UK where I spent the next 10 years dividing my time between London and Liverpool and traveling. It was in Liverpool in the mid 90's (Aintree University Hospital) where I learnt to be an ICU nurse, in a 20 bedded ICU with no nurse educator. In 2001 I came home back to Tauranga Hospital and have been here ever since. I have been in the Nurse Educator role for ICU/HDU/CCU since 2007 and finished my masters in 2008.

I am the treasurer for the NZ College of Critical Care Nurses. I am really excited about the extra resources that we have gained throughout the country as a result of COVID 19. I am also very proud of amazing collaboration and networking that takes place between all ICU Nurse Educators throughout NZ. The forum we each belong too

for sharing of resources and ideas was invaluable when COVID hit our shores, particularly those of us in the smaller regions.

Introducing Alicia Osland

Membership

My nursing career started in America in a Burn Specialty Care Unit (along with plastics and ENT). I quickly developed a passion for ICU nursing, so I earned an MSN in Nursing Education and CNS in critical care. I moved and worked in a general ICU while teaching nursing assessment at Indiana University before moving to Ōtepoti Dunedin. I am privileged to work with an amazing team in Te puna wai ora Dunedin ICU where I am also part of the retrieval team. I love to learn and am passionate about teaching. I joined the NZCCCN committee this year because I want to learn more about how critical care nursing is carried out in Aotearoa and help grow the field through networking and sharing resources. My goals are to contribute to the professional critical care nursing voice for better outcomes for our patients and their whanau, which will lead to ICU/HDU nursing satisfaction in their work and ultimately, retention of critical care nurses.



Introducing Diane Pollard



Hi, I am a RN at Te Nikau Hospital in Greymouth, based in the Critical Care Unit. I have worked at Greymouth hospital for 9.5 years based in this unit primarily. I live on a lifestyle block along the Arahura Valley on the West Coast of the South Island with my husband. I registered as a RN in 1983 after completing my hospital-based training at Christchurch Public Hospital and though the hospital has changed considerably since then I still have memories of the wards and corridors that remain today, though they may not be functioning as they were then. Prior to working in Greymouth, I worked in the Acute Admissions Unit in Ashburton Hospital for 15 years and prior to this lived and worked in Western Australia for 12 years; the last 6 years working full time in a rural hospital approximately 1000kms north of Perth. I love rural nursing and the West Coast so have the best of both worlds, living in a place that

gives me peace and tranquility and doing the type of nursing I am passionate about. Our CCU is a four-bed unit. We have a three-bed open bay and one negative pressure isolation room. We are staffed by one RN per shift, unless we have a patient requiring one to one nursing; and our patients include all ages from neonates to the older person. We also nurse patients across the health spectrum, including medical, surgical, obstetric, gynaecological, mental health, palliative care, paediatrics. Our patient acuity ranges from ward level patients to fully ventilated intensive care patients. We share our medical cover with the General Ward, which CCU is attached to. All nurses and doctors in CCU receive tremendous support and advice from the ICU and flight teams at Christchurch Hospital, and most of nurses have had the opportunity to spend time in ICU Christchurch for ventilator training and look forward to repeating this opportunity in the future.

Introducing Lara Millar Consultation documents

Kia ora koutou

Ko Lara Millar toku ignoa.

I began my journey in critical care in Ōtepoti with nursing in Dunedin Hospital. I moved to Nelson and have worked in Nelson hospital's ICU for the last 12 years. My current role is in flight nursing as well as nurse educator in the hospital Medical Admissions and Planning Unit. I have completed Post Graduate Critical Care and Aeromedical retrieval papers as part of my journey to deliver high quality care to patients' and their

whanau. I have been a member of NZCCCN from 2005 when it was a section until the present in its College status. I have been on the committee since 2018. I enjoy being on the committee because the voice of critical care nursing as a profession is essential to our growth of specialty and our kete of knowledge as we share skills and experience across the different facets of critical care in Aotearoa whether is a rural or urban setting. My specific role in the committee is to feedback on government policy changes, renewal and initiation via NZNO. I believe this is an important interface as nurses' hear the collective patient narrative and the issues that individuals and community's face with health care. This ability to feedback on policy is a democratic process that nurses' can contribute to as advocates to the impacts on health care that our environment such as housing, heating and cost of living to name a few have on our whanau and communities health. This is crucial to the goal of equitable health access and care. *Pena ka haere tonu, a tee waa ka taea, ka mau (You will get there if you just keep going).*



Introducing Rachel Yong Secretary



I am Rachel Yong, an RN from PICU, Starship Hospital, Auckland. I represent the Northern Region and have been on the national committee since 2016 until now. I am always curious of how things work; how to improve/adapt/change practices in critical care and thought if I wanted change it has to start with me, hence here we are. I hope the work that we do inspire others to step up and continue bearing the torch for critical care be it in education, nursing practices and nursing standards.

Rachel Yong
PICU RN
Starship Hospital

SAVE THE DATE

11 SATURDAY
MARCH 2023
Dunedin

New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses
STUDY DAY

NZCCCN
New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses
N Z N O

NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION
TOPUTANGA TAPUHI
KAITIAKI O AOTEAROA

‘When things go South’
More Information coming soon



COLLEGE
OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

UNDERSTANDING HOW CARE HAS CHANGED IN INTENSIVE CARE BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We are an international research team who are undertaking a study that will explore the experiences of nurses who have worked in the intensive care unit (ICU) during the COVID-19 pandemic and who have cared for with patients who remained in ICU for more than one week.

The focus of the study is to identify positive and negative factors that influence nurses' capacity to care during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to explore how they reconciled the absence of family/whānau who were prevented from visiting because of pandemic related protocols.

If you work in United Kingdom, Australia or New Zealand and are interested in telling us about your experiences please follow this link for more information:

https://massey.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5jLDhn0eYF9nQeW

Researchers

Leads:

Professor Clare Harvey c.harvey1@massey.ac.nz

Dr Claire Minton C.Minton@massey.ac.nz

Team:

Dr Janie Brown (Curtin University, Australia, with an ICU background)

Associate Professor Rachel Forrest (Eastern Institute of Technology)

Dr Nadine Bishop (Massey University)

Dr Amy-Louise Byrne (Central Queensland University, Australia)

Ms Amy Best (Massey University, with an ICU background)

Ms Martina Paletova (Massey University, with clinical practice during Covid-19 in Israel)

PO Box 756, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

T: 0800 MASSEY | www.massey.ac.nz/health



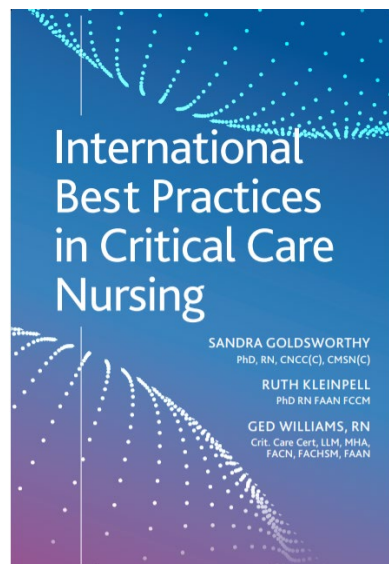
Message from the WFCCN for WFCCN Members

We would like to offer all members an opportunity to place a link on their association website or Facebook page that provides their members direct access to the 2nd edition of the International Best Practice in Critical Care E book from the WFCCN.

Below is the cover of the E-Book, access the E-book [here](#)

We hope your members find this resource helpful in their care of critically ill patients.

Kind regards,
Violeta



Dr. Violeta Lopez, RN, MNA, MPET, PhD, FACN
Board of Director (Secretary) and Ambassador, WFCCN

NZ College of Critical Care Nurses [NZNO] 2022 national committee members

Member	Role	Region
Tania Mitchell	Chair	Central
Rachel Yong	Secretary	Northern
Rachel Aitkin	Treasurer	Midland
David Aveyard	Website/Newsletter	Midland
Lara Millar	Consultation Documents	Central
Alicia Osland	Membership	Southern
Diane Pollard	Committee	Southern
Richard Ferreira	Committee	Northern
Angela Clark	NZNO Liaison	NZNO

Update your NZNO or NZCCCN Membership

If you move address, change your name, change your job/position, or no longer want to be a member section please update your details with NZNO. You can do this by emailing Sharyne Gordon: SharyneG@nzno.org.nz with your NZNO number and a simple request to alter your details or to remove you from the membership database of the college



NZCCCN

New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses

Critical Care and Coronary Care Unit Nurses

Are you a member? Membership is FREE

- ◆ Join a large community of likeminded nurses
- ◆ Scholarships available for courses and education
- ◆ Discounted registration to ANZICS conferences
- ◆ Critical Comment Newsletter
- ◆ Support education and safe staffing standards

For more information or to join, visit our website:

www.nzno.org.nz/groups/colleges_sections/colleges/new_zealand_college_of_critical_care_nurses



OR

New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses

