



May 2017

Presidents Report

Heather and I met recently to write this report and reflect back on the year and are pleased to note that we continue to achieve on many fronts.

We have successfully held 2 study days; In May we provided an update on supporting refuge and migrant young people in our schools. This included presentations from a refugee youth panel outlining the challenges for refugee young people followed by Marie Shepherd providing a case study and SHAKTI outlined the service they provide for abused migrant women. We also covered the key stressors for Asian young people with Patrick Au and Rudy Bakker reinforced a range of mental health assessment tools. In November the study day focus was on positive body image. This included presentations by Kathryn Barclay re engaging with young people, Kate Berridge negotiating adolescent obesity and Julia Nevill unravelling the adolescent brain.

The ASNG provided study grants for 8 members to attend conferences and various other professional development opportunities in the last year. Feedback was provided to clusters. We would encourage everyone who qualifies for the study grant to use them to support the attendance of conferences that can be otherwise difficult to access.

We have increased supervision training workshops for our members to twice a year. These workshops are facilitated by Karlyne Earp, and focus on helping nurses grow both as a person and as a practitioner ensuring your practices are safe, effective and ethical. It provides a solid foundation for reflective practice in your clusters so we would encourage anyone who has not attended this workshop to put in their expression of interest to the ASNG gmail account. We would also consider facilitating the workshop in your locality if you have sufficient numbers and a suitable venue.

Last year we advised you that Kate ChiTar leading the Primary Care Youth Health Quality Improvement project for Counties Manukau Health. Initially linked to initiative 3 of the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project - namely increasing access to Mental Health & Alcohol and Other Drug responses in primary care.

The yearlong project has seen several initiatives across practices to make them more youth friendly and strengthened relationships between School Based Health Services and Primary Care Practices.

This work has dovetailed nicely into the new MOH Youth System Level Measure – that 'youth are healthy, safe and supported'. Auckland is taking a Regional approach and the DHB's are working collaboratively on a Metro System Level Measures which are currently in progress and due to MOH 30 June 2017. The focus areas are

Youth Experience of Health System

Young people feel safe and supported by health services.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Real- Time Survey results for 10-24 year olds

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Young people manage their sexual and health safely and receive youth friendly care.

Chlamydia testing coverage for 15-24 year olds

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Young people experience less mental distress and disorder and are supported in times of need.

Self-harm hospitalisations and short stay ED presentations for <24 year olds

Alcohol and Other Drugs

Young people experience less alcohol and drug related harm and receive appropriate support.

Alcohol-related ED presentations for 10-24 year olds

Access to Preventative Services

Young people receive the services they need to keep healthy. Adolescent oral health utilisation for school year 9-17 years of age

We will keep you informed what the Auckland Metro Region System Level Measures team decide to focus their measures on and how our school services may be able to align with them.

The 'Guideline for School Principals and BOT's on the role and scope of a school nurse' developed by the Counties Manukau Health School Health Awareness Raising Project team (known as SHARP) has been distributed nationally. We hear anecdotally that the guide has been useful for principals, BOTs and nurses navigating employing nurses in the school setting.

We are happy to update you on the Registered Nurse prescribing in community health. Currently 6 school nurses are participating in the first role out which is being facilitated by Counties Manukau Health. Once the course has been completed it will be evaluated by Ko Awatea and we are hopeful that further national rollout will commence in 2018. This will enable registered nurses to legally prescribe a limited range of medications to improve the health outcomes of young people.

There has been increasing number of nurses enrolling in the Mental Health Credentialing programme facilitated by Waitemata DHB and we will continue to keep you advised of enrolment dates of this valuable course.

Congratulations to Kate ChiTar for completing her Nurse Practitioner pathway and she is now providing school based health clinics and standing orders for school nurses in CMDHB.

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the school nurses who were nominated for the Counties Manukau Health Nursing and Midwifery Awards which were held on International Nurses Day on the 11th May. It is to their credit that their peers have recognised their passion and commitment to the young people they serve. Congratulations to:

Kerrie Salwey, Heather Laxon and Cheryl Grbic who were all nominated for the Excellence in Nursing for Primary Care with Heather winning the award out of the 8 nominees. Congratulations to Kerrie Salwey who received the Counties Manukau School Nurse Service Award.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Suzie King who is currently the school nurse representative on the SYHPANZ executive committee. We would also like to acknowledge her significant input into the successful organisation of the Collaborative and SYHPANZ Hui in Christchurch in April.

Dr Simon Denny was a keynote address at the Hui and highlighted recently released ERO document called Wellbeing for Success: a resource for schools. This document been developed to help schools evaluate and improve student wellbeing. It highlights the importance of schools promoting the wellbeing of all students as well as the need for systems, people and initiatives to respond to wellbeing concerns for students who need additional support. Dr Simon Denny has been invited to meet with ERO to discuss his research that provides solid evidence schools who having a well-resourced, highly functioning school based health service can improve young people's wellbeing and decrease suicide rates.

As a result of discussions from Simon's key note address at the Hui the formation of a National Advisory Group with multi-sector representation is in its infancy. The ASNG is represented on this and we will include you in consultation and how this progresses.

Heather and I were invited to share about the success of the Auckland School Nurses Group model at the Hui. We facilitated a workshop and had good representation of school nurses from throughout the country. It highlighted how fortunate we are to have a robust voluntary organisation which supports both funded and non-funded nurses working in secondary schools in Auckland.

Whatever the funding model, school nurses make an enormous positive difference to the health outcomes of young people and as an organisation the Auckland School Nurses Group I was very humbled to see how our group was perceived and valued by nurses outside of Auckland. One of the many points of difference from other regions was the importance we have placed on developing a strong network and using a structured supervision model in our monthly clusters.

On a personal note, I began my journey as a school nurse in 1994 in a decile 10 school that had no idea of the role or potential value of a nurse for their community. I came into school nursing after working as a charge nurse and alongside consultants to being the sole nurse to a community of over 2500 and not so much as a stethoscope. Working literally last century before health funded clinics and any evidence based practice I rapidly came to appreciate and value the support of other school nurses. I was invited to join the exec to be secretary and then web manager which I continue with and for the past 6 years co-president. Now more than 20 years later and - while I am not be giving up my day job - it is time to stand down from the ASNG Executive.

I move that you accept my resignation and leave confident that you are in excellent hands with the exec standing for election.

Thank you.

We move that this report be accepted.

Diana Nicholson and Heather Laxon
Co-Presidents