

Tēnā koe

## **RE National review of nursing education in New Zealand**

The Nursing Council of New Zealand (the Council) has commissioned an independent and comprehensive review of nursing education to be undertaken in 2025. The aim of the review is to ensure the on-going relevance of the current education model while enabling flexibility and supporting innovation, to meet the on-going challenges and rapid changes in health needs and service delivery, now and in the future.

The Council has the legislative responsibility to ensure Aotearoa New Zealand's nursing education providers deliver programmes that graduate safe and competent nurses to practice in the Aotearoa New Zealand health care context. Providers are accredited under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003) (s12 and s118), to ensure qualifications and programmes meet the education standards set by the Council. Providers are monitored at intervals to ensure programmes remain relevant, educationally sound and can respond to the increasing complexity and rapid changes in health needs and services across Aotearoa New Zealand. The last comprehensive review of nursing education was undertaken for the Council by KPMG, almost 25 years ago (KPMG Strategic Review of Undergraduate Nursing Education, May 2001).

Health care and service delivery constantly change over time, however, over the last five years the education and health sectors have experienced unprecedented change leading to significant disruption which has in turn, had a major impact on nursing education and providers. This plus a wide range of social and cultural change - such as the increased understanding of the focus on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the urgent need to address health inequities, coupled with financial, education and health sector changes post-covid, have challenged nursing education providers to deliver in this context. The use of technology is now embedded in nursing education, it is essential in health service delivery and is integral to nursing work. The overall impact of this rapid and comprehensive change is particularly evident in what was previously the polytechnic sector which was restructured into the Te Pūkenga entity in 2020 based on the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE, 2019). This institution will be disestablished by December 2026.

However, the Council considers that this disrupted context while challenging also provides opportunities for change. This review will consider how nursing education is shaped and delivered, to ensure on-going relevance and preparation of safe and competent practitioners in all scopes of nursing registration. A new blueprint for nursing education can enhance flexibility for providers allowing innovation to flourish to



meet health system needs while continuing to maintain the quality and relevance of nursing education.

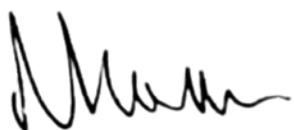
Therefore, the Council has commissioned a review of nursing education in New Zealand. The aim of the review is to:

**Develop a future vision and sustainable blueprint for nursing education in Aotearoa New Zealand to ensure a safe and competent workforce.**

The review will include consultation with nursing education providers, Māori nursing education providers, nursing programme leaders, health policymakers focused on funding and quality, healthcare providers and nursing graduates, to ensure key stakeholders have input into the review which will result in recommendations for a blueprint for the future.

The review will be undertaken by Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms and Dr Candy Cookson-Cox (Te Arawa and Kāi Tahu).

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ngaira Harker', written in a cursive style.

Ngaira Harker

**Chairperson**

Nursing Council of New Zealand