



Te Ao Māramatanga
New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses
Partnership, Voice, Excellence in Mental Health Nursing

NEWS RELEASE July 2018

Tēnā koutou katoa

Launch of two national branches within Te Ao Māramatanga- New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses

On 13 July 2018 addiction nurses and disability nurses were welcomed into Te Ao Māramatanga - New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses. Cake and balloons marked this special occasion held in Auckland where the national branch for addiction nurses and the national branch for disability nurses were launched.



Chrissy Kake – Kaiwhakahaere, Te Ao Māramatanga-New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses, Henrietta Trip – Chair of National Disability Nurses Branch, Louise Leonard - Chair of National Addiction Nurses Branch, Suzette Poole – President, Te Ao Māramatanga- New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses

The College recognises that many people needing support from nurses have more than one problem and therefore our practice must be flexible and able to provide a much more wholistic response. Mental health nurses will often find they are supporting people with addiction needs and or people who have a disability.

The College also understands that nurses working in isolated specialty practice areas may find it hard to connect and advocate collectively for change. Te Ao Māramatanga welcomes the opportunity to support addiction and disability nurses to have a voice, continue to work in partnership and promote excellence in addiction and disability nursing practice. The new addiction branch comes with the support of the Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (DANA).



Henrietta Trip – Chair of National Disability Nurses Branch and
Louise Leonard - Chair of National Addiction Nurses Branch



Louise Leonard- Chair of the Addiction nurses branch shares her thoughts:

“What a pleasure it was to be part of the college’s planning hui and to represent addiction nurses at the launch of this new established branch. It was inspirational to be amongst such a group of passionate, energetic, compassionate and visionary nursing leaders.

Addiction touches all areas of society and health and we as addiction nurses believe that addiction is in fact “every nurses business”. There-fore we welcome the opportunity to be able to work together with the college to be a strong New Zealand voice for addiction nursing, advocating for those whose lives are impacted by alcohol and other drug issues.

Addiction nursing workforce development will continue to be a key focus for the branch, building on the platform established with the Addiction Specialty Nursing Competency framework, as we strive to recruit, upskill, retain nurses to this exciting but challenging field. Thank you to Te Ao Māramatanga, particularly Suzette and Chrissy, for your very warm welcome and for making this collaboration possible.”



Henrietta Trip- Chair of the Disability nurses branch shares her thought:

“On behalf of the National Branch of Disability Nurses, I extend my thanks to Te Ao Māramatanga - New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses for the invitation to form a Branch and the warm welcome. This is an important development as many nurses continue to work alongside and for; people with intellectual, learning, neurodevelopmental, physical and other disabilities, their network of support, including family/whanau in a range of community, education and healthcare settings.

There is little recognition that disability nursing continues to be a specialty responding to a population whose longevity is increasing and who also experience a range of complex co-morbid conditions which affect their physical and mental well-being. Disability nurses facilitate healthcare education and access across the community, primary, secondary and tertiary health and disability service contexts and work with a range of individuals and health professionals to optimise healthcare outcomes for this population.

The National Branch of Disability Nurses seeks excellence in healthcare delivery to people with a disability by working in partnership and being a nursing voice within the sector.

Ngā mihi nui

Suzette Poole
President

Chrissy Kake
Kaiwhakahaere