

Te Ao Māramatanga

New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc.
Partnership, Voice, Excellence in Mental Health Nursing

PO Box 77-080, Mt Albert, Auckland, 1350, New Zealand

7th October 2021

To: Richard Taylor

gamblingharm@health.govt.nz

Tēnā Koe,

Please find a brief outline about Te Ao Māramatanga - New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses followed by our submission on the Draft Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm.

About Us

Te Ao Māramatanga is the professional body and voice for Registered Nurses with specialist mental health, addiction and disability knowledge and skills in New Zealand. Our growing membership includes a number of nurses who have been awarded Fellowship or Whetū Kanapa status in recognition of their contribution to mental health nursing. Members include nurse practitioners, registered nurses, enrolled nurses, nurses who hold a mental health and addiction credential, retired nurses and student nurses. We have nurses with expertise in a range of settings- clinical practice, education, research, workforce development, policy, primary health services, secondary services, district health boards, non-government organisations and specialty areas including disability and addiction. Our members are spread in both urban and rural areas nationwide and link into local College branches. Te Ao Māramatanga now includes national branches for addiction nurses and disability nurses.

The College board brings a wealth of knowledge which we draw from to advance the care of people with mental health problems through the expertise and the professionalism of mental health nursing in New Zealand. Our governance structure is internationally recognised for its bi-cultural constitution and ways of working which includes a president and kaiwhakahaere and a Māori caucus that supports our board. We are very privileged to have Dame Margaret Bazley as our Patron for a number of years.

As an organisation we have set, promoted, and maintained the standards for the practice of mental health nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand - Standards of Practice for Mental Health Nurses (2012). These standards are used widely to inform nurses, employers and organisations concerned with the development and expectations of the mental health nursing workforce.

Te Ao Māramatanga strives to work in partnership; to be the voice of mental health nursing in Aotearoa and will always promote excellence in mental health, addiction, and disability nursing. We have the passion, commitment and expertise to do so. Providing nursing

Te Ao Māramatanga NZCMHN®
PO Box 77-080, Mt Albert, Auckland 1350, New Zealand
admin@nzcmhn.org.nz

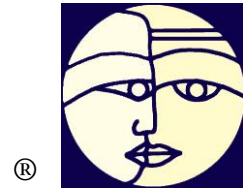
professional leadership on workforce matters is vital at this point and time to continue to develop and expand supportive services for people with disabilities, people with mental health needs and people with addiction needs. Moreover, nurses play a role in supporting whānau and communities with their health and wellbeing.

Te Ao Māramatanga is honoured to have Mātau Ron Baker as Kaumātua and Whaea Mere Hammond as Kuia. We are also very privileged to have Dame Margaret Bazley as our Patron for a number of years.

Te Ao Māramatanga, Addiction Nurse Branch appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm.

As a Professional body we submit the following response:

- Strongly agree with the continued need for an integrated problem gambling strategy focused on public health.
- Agree with needs assessment to include a stronger focus on equity, service integration, workforce development, health promotion and research.
- Strongly agree further hone the equity focus and better integrate gambling harm prevention and minimisation services with the broader mental health and addiction sector and services.
- Strongly agree increase the FTE rate for gambling harm clinical intervention and support services to align with other Ministry-funded mental health and addiction clinical FTE rates
- Suggestion moving objective 4: *Strengthen the health and health equity of Maori, Pacific peoples, Asian peoples and young people / rangatahi* to Objective 1. As the document acknowledged these groups are at greatest risk therefore the priority action areas need to occur at the earliest possible opportunities of the action plan.
- Agree the opportunity to provide clinical intervention services within prisons and youth justice facilities. Need to include early identification and interventions to those with gambling problems in Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua and within community corrections.
- There is a lack of acknowledgement of co-existing problems associated with gambling harm, such as alcohol and other drug problems or mental health issues within the documents. Mental health nurses are in a good position to provide brief interventions to those and their whānau in their care given the opportunity to upskill and attend training.
- Need to include competencies into undergraduate nursing education programmes and within postgraduate multidisciplinary and nursing education programmes (including Nurse Practitioner programmes). Nursing undergraduate education should include brief assessment and intervention knowledge and skills – post graduate addiction – both health promotion, brief interventions and interventions for those with complex gambling and co-existing issues.
- Silos of services (mental health and addiction) need to be broken down and integrated care provided where people receive holistic care across the continuum.
- Agree continue to explore innovative ways to provide treatment for the whole person through joined-up gambling, drug, alcohol and mental health services (within the constraints of the levy regulations), for example, service approaches based on whānau ora.
- Agree with alignment of the strategy and linking with the outcomes and objectives from Whakamaua: Maori Health Action Plan to each priority action area. We agree with the priority populations.



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- In terms of *‘development of opportunities for local co-design of services and supports, involving sharing and expanding on successes and innovations’* we would want areas that have the highest need which will also be high deprivation, to be the first areas with targeted support and investment.
- Strongly support the focus of a culturally appropriate workforce including those with lived experience to join the workforce.
- Strongly agree recognise the specialist skills required within gambling harm services and increase opportunities for workforce development and cultural safety (including acknowledging and involving gambling services in mental health and addiction services and responses) – address the silo between mental health and addiction services and gambling services
- Strongly agree the causes of harmful gambling are complex and require systems change across sectors, for example, addressing the social determinants of health and wellbeing requires a more holistic client focus and better integration of gambling harm services into primary care and social services
- Strongly agree - Address gaps in the spectrum of services and supports that are currently provided, particularly in the areas of peer support and residential treatment and for specific groups, such as people who have relapsed and for families and whānau who are affected by gambling.
- Review of the impact of advertisement of gambling products in terms of encouraging gambling and related harms.
- Would like to see inclusion of gambling harm interventions in the training of the Health Improvement Practitioners and Health Coaches working in primary care.
- Address gaps in the spectrum of services and supports that are currently provided, particularly in the areas of peer support and residential treatment and for specific groups, such as people who have relapsed and for whānau who are affected by gambling.
- Agree with research evaluation and look forward to reading these.

Overall we support the aspirations and extra funding associated with the strategy and associated plan.

Ngā mihi nui,

Velda Raybone-Jones
Addiction Nurses Branch Chair Person
Te Ao Māramatanga – New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc