



Te Ao Māramatanga
New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc

Media Release • 20th October 2025 • Wellington Branch One-Day Symposium (hosted at Te Papa Porirua Hospital, MHAIDS Campus)

Te Ao Māramatanga commits to healing and accountability following the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care

At Wellington Branch one-day symposium, held at Te Papa Porirua Hospital, Te Ao Māramatanga — the New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses — reaffirmed its national commitment to healing and accountability across Aotearoa

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A maui stone gifted by a survivor was received as a living symbol of truth, healing, and collective responsibility.

Te Ao Māramatanga — the New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses — today released its *Statement of Acknowledgement* on the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in State care. The statement formally acknowledges harm suffered within state and faith-based care and sets out a long-term programme of action to restore trust, embed accountability, and support healing.

“This is one of the most significant commitments our College has ever engaged in,” said May Pritchard, who led today's proceedings. **“It is more than an acknowledgement — it is a living promise to rebuild trust and to ensure it never happens again.”**

The Statement, informed by kōrero with survivors and their networks, reaffirms that some health professionals, including nurses, were involved in causing harm, and that the College accepts its responsibility to act. It places Te Tiriti o Waitangi, cultural safety, and trauma-informed practice at the centre of change.

Four areas of action

- **Standards review:** Update the *Standards of Practice for Mental Health Nursing (2012)* to ensure survivor-informed, culturally responsive, and safe care.
- **Education & development:** Embed trauma-informed care, reflective practice, and peer learning across the profession.
- **Whānau voice & safety:** Uphold safe pathways for tāngata whaiora, families, and whānau to raise concerns and be heard.
- **Ongoing collaboration:** Deepen partnerships with survivor networks, Māori health leaders, and other professional bodies to prevent future harm.



“We accept the findings of Whanaketia and recognise the lasting impacts of institutional tūkino,” said College President Hineroa Hakiāha. **“Our actions from today will be the measure of our integrity and our commitment to transformation.”**

A living taonga: the mauri stone

As part of the proceedings, a *mauri stone* — pounamu gifted by a survivor — was received by the College as a symbol of endurance, transformation, and hope. It will remain in the College’s care as a reminder of the wairua that accompanies this commitment to healing.

Media contact

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He tohu aroha, he mauri ora mō te katoa