

Conference 2026

19–20 November – The Pā, University of Waikato, Kirikiriroa Hamilton NZ

Day 1 - Thursday 19 November

	Kai/Break	Specialist Branch	Breakout sessions	Speaker/Panel Session	Awards	Kaupapa
7:30AM						Registration desk opens and exhibition stands open
8:30AM						Pōwhiri and Te Tai Tokerau branch handing over Taranga to Waikato branch
9:30AM						Paramanawa - Morning Tea
10AM						Welcome from Te Ao Māramatanga – New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc. Kym Park - President and Menetta Te Aonui - Kaiwhakahaere Welcome from Dr Ange Stewart - Whare Wānanga o Waikato - Head of School, Nursing and Midwifery
10:30AM						Launch of refreshed Standards of Practice for Mental Health Nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand
11AM						Whānau voices Guest Speakers: Yellow Brick Road
11:30AM						Rachael Muir - National Chief Nurse - Mental Health and Addictions, Te Whatu Ora
12PM						Kai te rā - Lunch
1PM						Breakout Sessions: Presentations (2 x 20mins) and Workshops (1 hour)
2PM						Panel of Nursing Leaders: Lorraine Hetaraka - Chief Nursing Officer at Manatū Hauora (MOH) Delanie Nepia - Akatū Tapuhi Matua, National Chief Nurse, Hauora Māori Service Tania Pritchard - Chief Mental Health and Addiction Nurse Hauora Māori Service Racheal Muir - National Chief Nurse - Mental Health and Addictions Te Whatu Ora Mel Green - Chair of National Directors of MH Nursing Nadine Gray - National Chief Nursing Officer - Health NZ, Te Whatu Ora Waikura Kamo - Kaiwhakahaere, Nursing Council
3PM						Paramanawa - Afternoon Tea
3:20PM						Addiction Nurses National Branch of Te Ao Māramatanga – NZ College of Mental Health Nurses Richard Jeffcoat - National Branch Chair, Guest speaker: Louise Tauhinu-Leonard - Mātanga Tapuhi - Nu - Launch of Aotearoa New Zealand Addiction Nursing Standards - Addiction Nurses Award
4PM						Disability Nurses National Branch of Te Ao Māramatanga – NZ College of Mental Health Nurses Dr Henrietta Trip - National Branch Chair, Speakers: Margaret Burns Carroll, Coni Medal, Maria Baby
4:40PM						Wrap up and Summary of the day - Co-Convenors: Hannah Lockyer & Hiraina McKenzie
5PM						Karakia to close
6:30/7PM						Fellowship Ceremony & Guest Speaker: Caro Swanson - Principal Advisor Mental Health, Lived Experien
7.30PM Onwards						Dinner

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Day 2 - Friday 20 November

	Kai/Break	Specialist Branch	Breakout sessions	Speaker/Panel Session	Awards	Kaupapa
7:30AM						College AGM - Breakfast (Members Only)
9AM						Karakia to Open Welcome back and dinner highlights - Co-Convenors: Hannah Lockyer & Hiraina McKenzie
9:10AM						Workforce Centre Leaders: Guest Speakers: Riki Nia Nia - CEO of Te Rau Ora; Riana Manuel - CEO of Te Pou; Dr Bronwyn Dunnachie - Principal Advisor Wharaurau; Dr Elizabeth Mari - CEO of LeVa
9:40AM						Dr Tony O'Brien , <i>Presentation Title</i> Professor of Mental Health Nursing Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato - T
10:10AM						Paramanawa- Morning Tea
10:40AM						National Guest Speaker Dr. Pipi Barton - Senior Academic Staff Member, Programme Co-ordinator and
11:10AM						Breakout Sessions: Presentations (2 x 20mins) and Workshops (1 hour)
12:10PM						Kai te rā - Lunch
1PM						Panel: Directorate of Mental Health and Addictions - Manatū Hauorā Ministry of Health NZ Guest speakers: Dr Anne Brebner - Chief Clinical Advisor in the Mental Health, Addiction and Suicide Prevention Group, Manatū Hauora, Jo Price - Principal Clinical Advisor in the Mental Health, Addiction and Suicide Prevention Group, Manatū Hauora, Michele Yeoman & Toni Dal Din
2PM						International Guest speaker: Australian College of Mental Health Nurses - TBC
2:30PM						Tu'u Tokanga: Centring Whānau Through a Pacific Safe Stance Dr Sione Vaka - Associate Professor & Latutama Tupou - Wolfgramm - Clinical Academic & Registered Mental Health Nurse, Division of Health at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato - University of Waikato
3PM						Paramanawa - Afternoon Tea
3:20PM						International Forensic Mental Health Nursing Standards of Practice International Guest speaker; Dr Tess Maguire - Associate Professor Forensic Mental Health Nursing. Chair of Nursing Research and HDR for the Department of Nursing Swinburne. Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science- Swinburne University of Technology, Forensicare & Dr Brian McKenna - Professor – Forensic Mental Health. School of Clinical Sciences Auckland University of Technology. Associate Clinical Director for Improvement, Auckland Regional Forensic Psychiatry Services (the Mason Clinic)
3:50PM						Panel/presentation: Advanced Nursing roles in MH: Nurses Practitioners/ Nurses as Responsible Clinicians Guest speakers so far: Mandy Shanley (NP) , Karen Thurston (NP)
4.20PM						Closing Ceremony: Highlights of the conference Co-Convenors: Hannah Lockyer & Hiraina McKenzie
4:30PM						Karakia to close