

Conference 2026

Day 1 – Thursday 19 November, The Pā, University of Waikato, Kirikiriroa Hamilton NZ

Kai/Break	Specialist Branch	Breakout sessions	Speaker/Panel Session	Awards	Kaupapa
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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 & Donna Foxall - Registered Nurse and Senior Māori Academic Advisor in the School of Nursing within the Division of Health
10:30AM		Update on refreshed Standards of Practice for Mental Health Nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand
11AM		Whānau voices: Viv Head , Regional Manager Te Manawa Taki for 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, Manatū Hauora/ Ministry of Health Nadine Gray, National Chief Nursing Officer, Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora Delanie Nepia, Akatū Tapuhi Matua, National Chief Nurse, Hauora Māori Service Rachael Muir, National Chief Nurse Mental Health and Addictions, Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora Mel Green, Chair of National Directors of Mental Health Nursing, Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora Rob McHawk, Registrar, Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa/Nursing Council of NZ
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 speakers: Louise Tauhinu-Leonard - Mātanga Tapuhi -Nurse Practitioner, Waikato - Health NZ/ Te Whatu Ora & Rhonda Robertson - Lived Experience Leader - 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 Margaret Burns-Carroll, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Responsible Clinician, Intellectual Disability/Mental Health Dual Diagnosis Service (IDDD), Waikato- Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora Coni Medel, Lived Experience Lead, Waikato- Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora Dr Maria Baby, PHD, RN – Nurse Practitioner, Adult Community Mental Health and Intellectual Disability – MHAID, Southern- Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora
4:40PM		Wrap up and Summary of the day - Co-Convenors: Hannah Lockyer & Hiraina McKenzie
5PM		Karakia to close
6:30PM		Fellowship Ceremony & Guest Speaker: Caro Swanson - Principal Advisor Mental Health, Lived Experience at Te Pou
7.30PM		Dinner

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Day 2 - Friday 20 November, The Pā, University of Waikato, Kirikiriroa Hamilton NZ

Kai/Break	Specialist Branch	Breakout sessions	Speaker/Panel Session	Awards	Kaupapa
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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 Whāraurau; Dr Elizabeth Mari - CEO of LeVa
9:40AM		Tony O'Brien , Professor of Mental Health Nursing Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato - The University of Waikato. Towards a national framework for mental health nursing education in Aotearoa
10:10AM		Paramanawa - Morning Tea
10:40AM		Advanced Nursing roles in Mental Health: Nurses Practitioners Panel Blair Bishop, Nurse Practitioner, Tūhonohono-The Wellington Addiction Service, Mental Health, Addiction & Intellectual Disability Service (MHAIDS), Capital, Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa- Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora Karen Thurston, Nurse Practitioner, Infant, Child, Adolescent Mental Health Service, Waikato-Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora Mandy Shanley, Nurse Practitioner, Specialist Eating Disorder Regional Service, Waikato- Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora
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 Hauora Ministry of Health NZ Toni Dal Din, Deputy Director of Mental Health Dr. Anne Brebner, Chief Clinical Advisor in the Mental Health, Addiction and Suicide Prevention Group Jo Price, Principal Clinical Advisor in the Mental Health, Addiction and Suicide Prevention Group
2PM		International Guest speaker: Kate Thwaites , Chief Mental Nurse / Executive Officer Australian College of Mental Health Nurses
2:30PM		Tu'u Tokanga: Centring Whānau Through a Pacific Safe Stance Dr Sione Vaka - Associate Professor, Associate Dean & Latutama Tupou - Wolfgramm - Clinical Academic & Registered Mental Health Nurse at 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 National speaker: 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		Closing Ceremony: Highlights of the conference Co-Convenors: Hannah Lockyer & Hiraina McKenzie
4:00PM		Karakia to close