Te Ao Māramatanga - New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses Inc.

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

7:30AM	Kaupapa	**Registration desk opens** and exhibition stands open
8.30AM	Kaupapa	**Pōwhiri** and Te Tai Tokerau branch handing over Taranga to Waikato branch
9:30AM	Kai/Break	**Paramanawa - Morning Tea**
10AM	Speaker/Panel Session	**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	Speaker/Panel Session	**Alisha Tamepo-Pehi** - Māori Health & Health Improvement Practitioner **& Erena Mihara Elizabeth Tahere** - Health Improvement Practitioner of Turuki Healthcare Services: ***Integrating Wairua into Clinical Nursing Practice***
11AM	Speaker/Panel Session	**Whānau voices**: **Viv Head**, Regional Manager Te Manawa Taki for **Yellow Brick Road**
11:30AM	Speaker/Panel Session	**Rachael Muir** - National Chief Nurse - Mental Health and Addictions, Te Whatu Ora
12PM	Kai/Break	**Kai te rā - Lunch**
1PM	Breakout sessions	**Breakout Sessions**: **Presentations** (2 x 20mins) and **Workshops** (1 hour)
2PM	Speaker/Panel Session	**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	Kai/Break	**Paramanawa - Afternoon Tea**
3:20PM	Breakout sessions	**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	Breakout sessions	**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	Kaupapa	Wrap up and Summary of the day - **Co-Convenors: Hannah Lockyer & Hiraina McKenzie**
5PM	Kaupapa	**Karakia to close**
6:30PM	Awards	**Fellowship Ceremony & Guest Speaker: Caro Swanson -** Principal Advisor Mental Health, Lived Experience at Te Pou
7.30PM	Kai/Break	**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

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**, Nuse 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**