

To all RN Prescribers in Primary Health and Specialty teams/RN Prescriber students

28th August 2023

Dear Colleague,

As the RN Prescriber (RNP) in Primary Health and Specialty teams scope gains traction across New Zealand, it has become apparent that whilst nurses are taking up the role in ever growing numbers, the preparedness of employer, health systems, and workplaces to best utilise the role, has not kept pace.

There are several issues that we see need to be addressed:

1. Our roles are not specified within collective agreements or specifically recognised by funders or other health stakeholders,
2. Many of us are facing individual discussions and negotiations with our employers around salary expectations,
3. Many of us need to develop our own position descriptions, role outlines and models of care,
4. Many of us have been and continue to be required to individually negotiate clinical and collegial relationships as an essential part of our practice.
5. There is no centralised or national “home” for RNP’s that can both offer support to RNP’s or represent us.

In addition, there has been little recognition that while some of our issues may overlap with those of other nurse prescribers, we face different and specific barriers to practice and implementation of our roles.

In response to these issues and challenges, a group of RNP’s have come together and formed a national group called Registered Nurse Prescribers NZ (RNPNZ). We have two initial key objectives. Firstly, we aim to provide a networking and support space for RNP’s and RNP students, where we can as a group develop resources (i.e., business cases, salary advice/benchmarking, models of care and role outlines) for use by members.

Secondly, we aim to connect with professional and health related organisations, and others, to raise the profile of RNP’s, start to work on addressing the barriers to practice and full implementation of the role, and contribute to the design and delivery of healthcare as part of Te Pae Tata and beyond.

To date, we have formed an interim executive committee. Our initial action plan is as follows:

1. Communicate as widely as possible during 2023/2024 with RNP’s and students on the RNP pathway to raise awareness about the formation of RNPNZ.
2. Invite all RNP’s and RNP students to join the membership list by sending their name, APC number, contact details (email/phone), place of work, and area of practice to the email address rnprescribersnz@gmail.com **Provision of this information implies consent for it to be added to our membership database which may become available to other members. If you do not wish for your information to be available to other members, please advise us.**
3. Later in 2023/early 2024, circulate an invite and agenda to members for our first online meeting.
4. Once we have established the group over the next few months, we will develop a work plan, relevant working parties, a meeting schedule, and communication plan.

RNP’s are now, and will continue to be, the largest group of advanced nurses. We want to ensure that we have the support, resources, and systems in place to facilitate our practice, and therefore

maximise our positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of our communities. It will take all of us coming together and working with each other to achieve this goal.

We invite you to be part of this exciting step forward and make contact through the email address.

Kind Regards

The Interim Committee, RNP NZ

Lelia Currie, RNP, PHC, Temuka

Rowena Panchaud, RNP, PHC, Dannevirke

Kim Carter, RNP, PHC, Temuka

Michelle Robb, RNP, PHC, Greymouth

Wendy McPhillips, RNP, PHC, Bay of Plenty

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