

2025 President's Report

Presented by Jodi, Co-President, Auckland School Nurses Group

Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is my privilege to present this year's President's Report on behalf of both myself and Vicki, who is currently overseas and unable to join us today. Together, we have served as your Co-Presidents for just over a year.

We warmly welcome all new school nurses and those joining ASNG for the first time. As highlighted in our membership report, 29 of our 134 members are new to youth health nursing in schools - a testament to the ongoing growth and renewal of our profession.

The collective knowledge, experience, and support within ASNG is truly remarkable. Since 1986, ASNG has served as a vital resource for school nurses, and for the past 23 years, our cluster model has fostered strong connections and peer support. We encourage everyone - especially those working in sole nurse positions, non-funded schools, or transitioning roles - to reach out and connect. Our community thrives on shared wisdom and mutual support.

Today's study day is central to our mission: empowering nurses through professional development, supervision, and a focus on the health and wellbeing of rangatahi in our schools. Despite rising costs, we're proud to have maintained our membership and study day fees, and we remain committed to keeping these as accessible as possible.

A cornerstone of ASNG's strength is our cluster representatives. These dedicated volunteers ensure strong communication and connection across our clusters, keeping our organisation robust and responsive. We sincerely thank them for their vital and often behind-the-scenes contributions. Their mahi is the backbone of successful events like today's study day, as well as our November gathering. We've been fortunate to learn from insightful speakers, expanding our knowledge and deepening our resolve to support the diverse rangatahi we serve.

This year, we're thrilled to celebrate the formation of the Central Western Cluster Group, supporting nurses in non-funded schools. Our thanks go to former ASNG President Anita Wicks, whose generous leadership and experience-both as a Nurse Educator and through 13 years in a non-funded school-have been instrumental in establishing this new group.

Over the past year, Te Ūkaipō has become the foundational framework for School Based Health Services to underpin our work as school nurses. Rooted in nine interconnected kaupapa Māori values, Te Ūkaipō helps us create a strong and nurturing kōhanga - the "nest"- where rangatahi can find support, care, and safety as

they navigate adolescence. By embracing these values in our daily practice, we foster spaces where young people feel welcomed, empowered, and able to ask for help. As we deepen our understanding and application of Te Ūkaipō, we strengthen our ability to provide holistic, culturally grounded care that enhances mana, builds meaningful connections, and ensures every young person knows they have a safe place to return to. As we navigate ongoing changes in our sector, these values will remain at the heart of our mahi and our support for each other.

We also wish to acknowledge Christine Stewart and her team at Health NZ Te Whatu Ora. Christine played a pivotal role in the review of school-based health services, championing the voices of rangatahi and leading the rollout of the SBHS values framework, Te Ūkaipō. This framework embodies the core values of youth health nursing and empowers us to enhance mana and build meaningful connections with our rangatahi-a significant step forward for our field. Sadly, Christine's role and most of her colleagues have been disestablished as part of ongoing health reforms, which is a considerable loss for youth health. However, their work has provided robust evidence of the unique value school nurses bring to youth health, underscoring why our mahi is so important. For those in funded positions, we encourage you to complete the Te Ūkaipō training, which is moving from LearnOnline to Ko Awatea - please note that all school nurses, regardless of funding, can access Ko Awatea.

We also want to acknowledge the immense pressure many of you are facing. The workload is relentless, clinics are overflowing, and the challenges are real. We hear your concerns and want to take this moment to thank you for your dedication, resilience, and commitment to your communities. We hope today offers a chance to recharge, connect, and feel supported by your colleagues.

Finally, ASNG remains steadfast in our commitment to supporting the unique role of youth health in school nursing. We will continue to serve as a vital link for all Auckland School Nurses, working together to advance the health and wellbeing of our rangatahi.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa-thank you all for your passion, professionalism, and ongoing contribution.