Opening up nursing frontiers through consumer alliances

New Zealand Rural General Practice Network Conference

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College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ)

- Professional body of Registered Nurses
- Provides a forum for critical inquiry into professional, educational and research issues relating to nursing
- Bi-cultural board
- Provides a nursing voice of nursing issues affecting nurses and consumers
- Vision: Professional excellence in nursing practice
College vision

Meet community needs

100% access Zero disparities

Advocacy Sustainable
100% access and Zero disparities

- Closing the gap in a generation
- Social injustice is killing people on a grand scale
- Relational approach
- WHO (2008)
Consumer Alliances

- Nurses social mandate
- Consumer participation in health
- Success of Aged concern/Grey power and College alliance
- Socio-economic and political factors
- Reciprocal relationships
Consumer alliance between College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) and Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ)
Manifesto

- The right of rural people to access to essential services
- The need for educational opportunities at all levels
- Land and environmental issues
- Legislation affecting the welfare of families
Benefits

- Being able to contribute to the health and well being of rural communities - Profiling Rural Women NZ to the College
- Opportunities for RWNZ to inform the College of key health issues
- Being informed of key nursing initiatives
- Opportunity to comment on key issues supported by the College and visa versa
- Mechanisms to disseminate information
RWNZ issues

- Distance, time and costs to health services
- Need for adequate housing – itinerant dairy workers
- Transport issues for many
- Social isolation and loneliness
- Evidence of dwindling social capital
Concluding thoughts…

“Nurses in the 21st century are being called to rise to new levels of practice, including a more influential leadership senior levels of policy development. Decades of research, good will, and a revolutionary civil rights movement have not resolved the world’s staggering health outcomes disparities. Nursing has a solution: Many of the most troubling disparities are amenable to effective intervention by the world's nurses through their clinical and policy work”.

Villeneuve (2008, p.334)
References