

# Opening up nursing frontiers through consumer alliances

New Zealand Rural General Practice Network Conference

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# College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ)

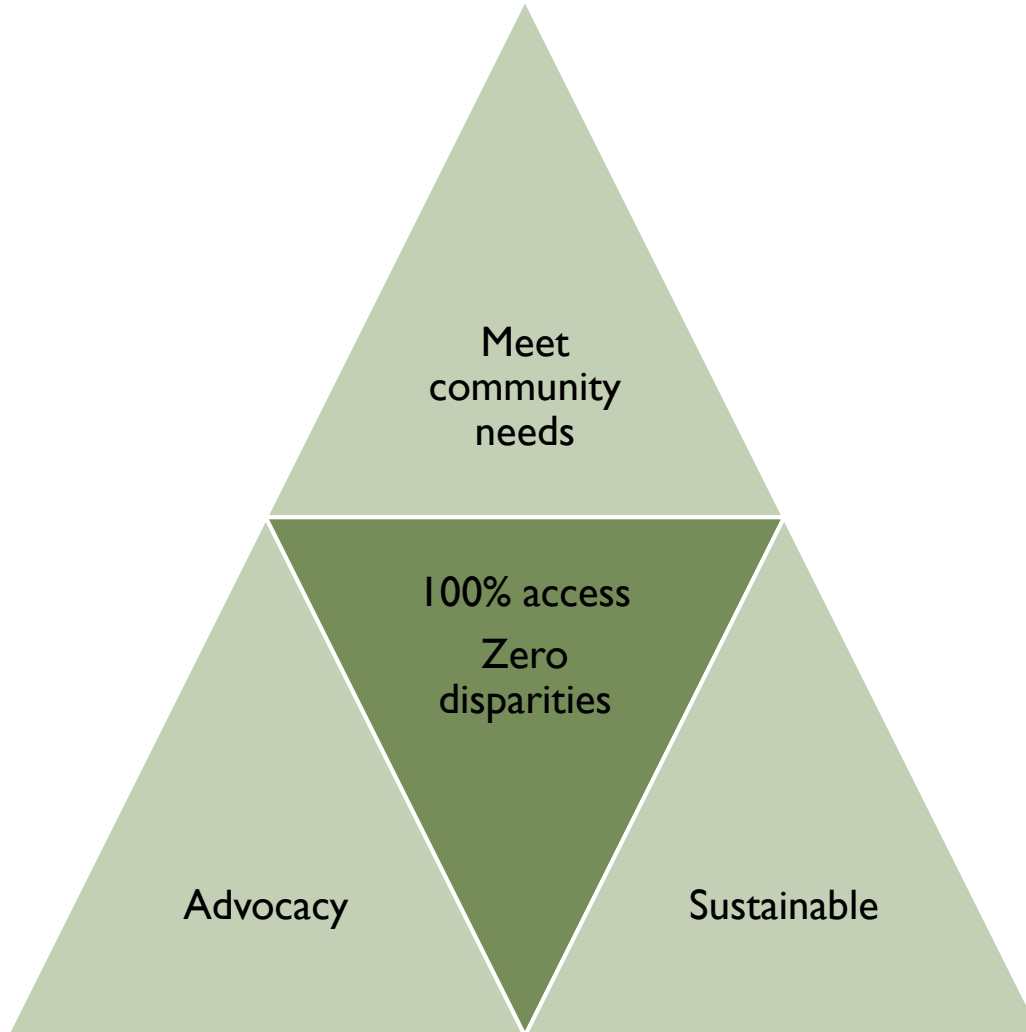
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- ▶ Professional body of Registered Nurses
- ▶ Provides a forum for critical inquiry into professional, educational and research issues relating to nursing
- ▶ Bi-cultural board
- ▶ Provides a nursing voice of nursing issues affecting nurses and consumers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



# College vision

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# 100% access and Zero disparities

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



# Consumer Alliances

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- ▶ 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

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College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ)



Rural Women New Zealand(RWNZ)

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# Manifesto

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ 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



# Memorandum signing

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# RWNZ issues

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- ▶ 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...

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- ▶ “Nurses in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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

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- ▶ College of Nurses (2009). Strategic plan 2009-2012.  
<http://www.nurse.org.nz>
- ▶ Ministry of Health (2001). *The Primary Health Care strategy*. Wellington: Author.
- ▶ Villeneuve, M.J. (2008). Yes we can! Eliminating health disparities as part of the core business of nursing on a global level (Electronic version). *Policy, Politics & Nursing Practice*, 9, 334-341. retrieved 12 March 2009 from <http://ppn.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/9/4/334>.
- ▶ World Health Organization (2008). *Closing the gap in a generation*. Geneva: Author

