Introducing Te Wāhanga Rangahau Tapuhi – NZNO's Nursing Research Section

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The NZNO Nursing Research Section – now also known as Te Wāhanga Rangahau Tapuhi – began life almost 50 years ago, in 1975. It was one of NZNO's first sections (known then as special interest groups) for professional nursing members (Litchfield, 2009).

Mission

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Membership and evolution

The Nursing Research Section has always attracted nurses interested in research, whether as active researchers themselves or as readers who wished to learn more about the research process and apply research findings to their nursing practice.

Initially, the section's members were primarily academics and educators. While this group remains, the membership is now broader and more democratic, as research is recognised as part of every nurse's role in caring for patients.

Aims

The section's aims are to:

- Promote cooperation and collaboration between nurse researchers, both nationally and internationally.
- Liaise with authorities on social, health and educational issues relevant to nursing research in Aotearoa, New Zealand.
- Facilitate links between Te Wāhanga Rangahau Tapuhi and other NZNO colleges and sections.
- Provide a platform to bring together nurses interested in sharing knowledge and ideas to enhance evidence-based nursing practice across Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Membership growth and stability

Te Wāhanga Rangahau Tapuhi membership has grown over the years and now remains relatively stable at around 377 members. While the goals of valuing, promoting, and encouraging research and researchers have never changed, the way these goals are met has evolved.

Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and embracing change

An example of this evolution happened in 2021 when the section was honoured with a new name, Te Wāhanga Rangahau Tapuhi, gifted by NZNO kaumātua Keelan Ransfield. The new name was developed in consultation with the kaumātua to reflect the goals of the section, and the mana of the new name was passed on to the section's new logo. The new logo was created by design student Ying Zhou following a national public competition. It features a rito (the young shoot of the harakeke – New Zealand flax), a koru symbolising the eye of a ruru (morepork owl), and a magnifying glass in green.

Also in 2021, the section's then-chair, Louise Chan, led a discussion on equity, kaupapa Māori research, and the section's commitment to giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi through its work. This led to the section developing a partnership with Te Poari – the committee which administers the Māori wing of NZNO – and since 2023 the section committee has included a permanent representative of Te Poari.

Recent activities and future plans

Te Wāhanga Rangahau Tapuhi's committee comprises eight dedicated volunteers. A highlight of this year's work was a research forum held in Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland, in early October with the theme, *Hoki whakamuri, kia anga whakamua – "Look at the past to help forge the future."* This means understanding that older knowledge still has relevance and can evolve for use in the future. The hui attracted 50 participants who came to hear a wide variety of current nursing research from Aotearoa. The abstracts from many of these research projects are featured over the following three pages.

In keeping with the hui theme of evolving knowledge, the committee has some fresh and exciting ideas for 2025 and beyond – further hui and mentorship, among others.

Report by Te Wāhanga Rangahau Tapuhi's committee

Reference

Litchfield, M. (2009). *To advance health care. The origins of nursing research in New Zealand*. New Zealand Nurses Organisation.