

# CYNet



Health of our children: Wealth of our nation



Newsletter of the Advisory Group for New Zealand Child and Youth Clinical Networks Issue 2 - 2020



## From the Chair

It is my pleasure to provide this editorial for CYNet, the newsletter for the New Zealand Child and Youth Clinical Network (NZCYCN) programme. Since the beginning of the programme in 2010 there have been 2 Chairs of the overarching Advisory Group (the title now changed to

Governance Group).

The first chair was Dr Rosemary (Rosie) Marks, who served 2 terms as both President of the Paediatric Society of NZ and as Chair of the Networks Group. I have now been the Chair for the past 6 years and it is time for me to move on. This will be my last editorial for this publication and I'd like to take the opportunity to note the continued development and consolidation of the programme, acknowledge new and departing colleagues, profile a small number of activities and say goodbye.

During both Rosie's and my tenures, the programme has developed from no clinical networks to the current twelve, plus one network has reverted to a PSNZ Special Interest Group (SIG) and another has successfully completed a complex work plan under a 2 year fixed term contract. During its 'life to date' the programme has:

- Developed a range of quality improvement processes designed to support and consolidate networks.
- Contracted facilitators to support the clinical leads and clinical reference groups to progress their agreed aims and work plans.

- Developed more than 220 resources, with web site analytics showing increasing access to these resources.
- Members of the various networks have been expert spokespersons on many topics
- The CYNet publication was established to provide regular updates on the work of the programme.
- Contracts have been regularly reviewed and renewed with the Ministry of Health (now on the 7th variation to the core contract with a term through to end of June 2022).
- A range of projects have been completed or are works in progress and regular reports are provided to the MOH.

It has been a pleasure to contribute.

In recent times Covid-19 has impacted on personal lives, workplaces and of course how the network programme operates. Along with many other facets of the health care service changes will continue to influence future network operations. From mid-March the NZCYCN programme ceased all face to face meetings and has significantly increased the use of the successful Zoom meetings. While this creates challenges for working differently it is remarkable how quickly we have adapted. Virtual meetings allow participation for people otherwise unable to join (regardless of the pandemic situation) and can be very efficient by eliminating travel cost and time. I hope that the work put in to adapting to the pandemic will have



benefits which persist well beyond the current crisis.

I would like to acknowledge and farewell Miranda Ritchie who has been a dedicated stalwart of the both the Child Protection SIG and subsequently the clinical network. Miranda has been both a member of the CRG, and the facilitator, during various iterations of this network, and now it time to focus on another aspect of her career. I know her skills and expertise will be missed but our thanks and best wishes are extended to Miranda for her ongoing commitment.

Welcome to Dr Bridgette Farrant, who has accepted membership on the Governance Group and will represent the Society of Youth Health Professionals in Aotearoa NZ (SYPHANZ). We look forward to having Bridgette's expertise on the needs of health care for youth and transition into adult services. Also welcome to Dr Russell Wills, who will be known to many, and has accepted the role of clinical lead for the Child Protection network.

Last but certainly not least I am delighted to welcome Prof Dawn Elder to Chair the NZCYCN Governance Group. I'm confident that the leadership of the programme is safe in Dawn's capable hands and I look forward to seeing new developments as she brings new ideas and energy to the role.

Since I am now signing off from my position as Chair I would like to thank all members of the Governance Group both past and present for their commitment to this work and for being such a calm, knowledgeable and collaborative group to meet with. I've enjoyed working with you during the past 6 years, you have made my job easy.

**Richard Aickin**

Chair,

NZCYCN Governance Group

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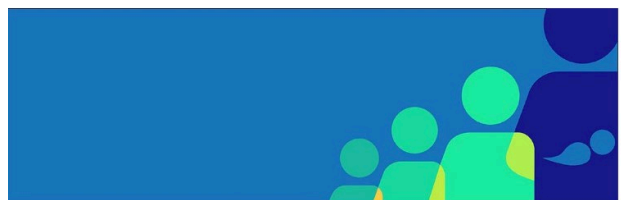
# Child and Youth Epidemiology Service

Members of the NZCYES team enjoy the privilege of working alongside NZ Child and Youth Clinical Networks, using health data to help improve health outcomes for children and young people. The director attended meetings with NZCYCN members in 2019 and, together with regular email contact with the clinical leads and administrators for each network, has been able to identify relevant indicators within the National Collections. Despite the current lack of robust and consistent diagnosis data for children who attend outpatient and community visits, information about hospitalisations can usefully inform network activity.

There have been delays to accessing 2019 health data due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the national response, with many staff in the health sector working from home. When the most recent data are available, the team will be able to provide updated information to the Sleep Medicine Services Network. This information will include hospitalisations for obstructive sleep apnoea and analyse relevant procedural codes. With the return to Alert Level 1 the NZCYES team is finalising indicators for the 2020 reports. Through the University of Otago, the NZCYES also holds contracts which include most district health boards. We welcome enquiries and are happy to discuss data that may help to inform work to enable children and young people to thrive in our communities. Feel free to



New Zealand Child and Youth Epidemiology Service



contact us at [nzcyes@otago.ac.nz](mailto:nzcyes@otago.ac.nz)

The child and youth health workshop planned for the Ministry of Health and DHBs in May 2020 has been postponed to 12-13 May 2021. We look forward to hearing from NZCYCN at that event. There has been a delay in the production of the final 2019 reports on the health and wellbeing of under-25 year olds in Aotearoa and in each DHB. We are seeking ways to provide information while the hard copy reports continue to be processed. Past reports, with a wealth of information about child and youth health, can be browsed and accessed from our website [www.otago.ac.nz/nzcyes](http://www.otago.ac.nz/nzcyes)

**Dr Mavis Duncanson**

NZCYES Director

# Introducing

## Dr Bridget Farrant

**B**ridget is an Adolescent Physician and Clinical Leader at Kidz First Centre for Youth Health, Counties Manukau Health. She is also a Senior Lecturer with the University of Auckland Department of Paediatrics, overseeing the postgraduate programme in Youth Health. Her clinical and research interests focus on young people with chronic health conditions or symptoms, youth appropriate health service development and education and training in adolescent and young adult health.

Having contributed to a number of different committees within the RACP and SYHPANZ, she is looking forward to the opportunity to help link up further the work of SYHPANZ and the Paediatric Society.



## Russell Wills

**K**ia ora koutou  
I'm delighted to follow Professor Dawn Elder as chair of the Child Protection Clinical Network.

I'm a paediatrician in Hawke's Bay working in general and neurodevelopmental-behavioural paediatrics and child protection. I hope my previous experience as Children's Commissioner will be helpful too. I've been a member of the PSNZ Child Protection Special Interest Group and now the Child Protection Clinical Network (CPCN) for 20 years or so. I remember our first meetings with a handful of keen clinicians, so it's been wonderful to have over 100 practitioners attend our recent satellite meetings.

The CPCN's work plan notes that due to COVID-19 there won't be a national, face-to-face meeting this year. However, Clare Doocey has kindly volunteered to lead a work stream to survey our network for our training needs and pull together a virtual program, ably supported by other members of the CPCN's Clinical Reference Group (CRG). We know there are colleagues who are ready to teach, so it's an exciting development - watch this space. Another work stream will update our child protection resources on the KidsHealth website - again please check this out in the coming weeks.

The Ministry of Health and Oranga Tamariki are keen to progress a new schedule within the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Oranga Tamariki, Police and DHBs. The proposed new Schedule 5 will focus on removal of children from hospital ("uplifts") and the CRG of this Network has provided feedback. We look forward to working with the partner Ministries to ensure the new Schedule meets everyone's needs and keeps children safe.

I'm looking forward to a busy few months as we work with colleagues across sectors to strengthen our child protection system.

Meanwhile, thank you all for what you do to keep children safe.

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.

### **Russell Wills**

Paediatrician, HBDHB

Chair, Child Protection Clinical Network



# Cerebral Palsy Clinical Network Update

The Cerebral Palsy Society (CPS) wishes to thank Professor Susan Stott, New Zealand Child and Youth Clinical Network (NZCYCN) programme, the clinicians and therapists involved and our members for their incredible work to date on the Cerebral Palsy Clinical Network (CN). So many clinicians, therapists and members have undertaken such amazing work to make a difference for our members and their families. Thank you!

The CN was approved by the NZCYCN Governance Group last year and progress to date has been significant. The CN has;

- Drafted evidence-based national clinical consensus documents for diagnosis and early intervention based on best practice. These include early intervention therapy check-lists with diagnostic pathways, best practice recommendations for therapy and neuro support in Neo Natal Intensive Care Units. These are currently under consultation with clinicians and therapists
- Reviewed current pathways for Selective dorsal rhizotomy (SDR) for New Zealand families including identifying the gaps in information for criteria; surgery and post-operative therapy. Next steps are consulting with members of the CPS about their experiences and potential plans. The purpose of this work stream is to develop a paper for the Ministry of Health about possible next steps for SDR in New Zealand
- Made great progress in reviewing International Guidelines around transition from paediatrics to adult services; reviewing national practises; developing checklists for adult healthcare providers; service planners; health professionals; families and young people.



*CPS therapists working closely with children*

- Continued to support the development of a sustainable pathway for the NZ Cerebral Palsy Register. The register will now look at equity and service access.
- Worked with the CPS to amplify the child and youth voice in the sector. These videos are available.
- Made further progression around the research on intensive therapies which will be available shortly. Discussion is occurring about phase 2 of the intensive therapy work stream.



## Update on the PSNZ website changes

"The PSNZ is making changes to improve access and to provide a more interactive website. The company, 'Healthy Communications Ltd', has been contracted to work with the PSNZ's website developers to provide a more user friendly service and a small PSNZ project team is supporting this improvement. Updates on the next phase of improved access and interaction will be posted to the PSNZ membership so please watch for these updates.



# Society of Youth Health Professionals

Society of Youth Health Professionals Aotearoa New Zealand (SYHPANZ) consists of members passionate about the wellbeing of young people in Aotearoa NZ and ensuring a quality workforce to meet their needs and aspirations. Our vision is that all young people are thriving in Aotearoa New Zealand. <https://syhpanz.org.nz/>

SYHPANZ's mission is to advocate, promote and enhance the development of youth health practitioners and services for young people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

To enable this we work to;

- Improve the health and wellbeing of young people aged 12-24yo by facilitating the education of health professionals in the area of youth health. We aim to promote, support and further the knowledge skills and scope of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals working within the youth health specialty.
- Benefit the community by ensuring that young people can access health professionals with specialist skills by working with the professional bodies and colleges in the NZ health sector to enable health professionals to meet the standards required for recognition as youth health specialists.
- Do anything necessary or helpful to the above purposes, including participation in research, training and certification of practitioners.

SYHPANZ aims to connect across communities and sectors both Nationally and Internationally to maintain key relationships and partnerships with a strong emphasis to enhance the development of youth health practitioners and services for young people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Some of our key projects with partners include:

- In partnership with Ministry of Health to form a National Youth Health Leadership Group (NYHLG). The NYHLG gives non-binding strategic advice, guidance and support on the immediate priorities and the long-range strategy of MOH on matters

regarding young people. For the first year the NYHLG is aligned with the Government's commitment to extend and enhance School Based Health Services (SBHS) in Aotearoa, as an action to "inspire active, healthy and creative children and young people" in the Child and Youth Wellbeing Current Programme of Action. For 2020, the NYHLG is tasked with advising the Ministry as to what an extended and enhanced model of SBHS should look like for the rangatahi of Aotearoa, and the steps needed for the appropriate development of the associated workforce.

Partnership across Youth Sector for INVOLVE Conference biennially to support and promote Youth Health and Development for young people and the



associated workforce. This partnership consists of SYHPANZ, Ara Taiohi, The Collaborative Trust, and NZ Youth Mentoring Network. INVOLVE 2020 Conference has been interrupted by Covid-19 this year and will now take place in August 2021. It is always a celebration of excellence across NZ and with strong links internationally to share research, evidence based programs, workforce development, and most important young people's stories – their challenges, aspirations, opportunities, and power of hope.

- Involvement with International Association of Adolescent Health (IAAH) and Australian Association of Adolescent Health (AAAH). Dame Sue Bagshaw (founding member of SYHPANZ) was previously Chair of IAAH and SYHPANZ remains a member of IAAH network to help shape the field of adolescent health. IAAH is a resource that catalyses local, regional, and global connections to advance adolescent health. SYHPANZ is working with AAAH to support pathways for Adolescent Health within the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). RACP is the professional medical College of over 17,000 physicians and 8,000 trainee physicians, in Australia and New Zealand.
- RACP is running a Webpilot program based on the understanding that a society develops and provides CPD content to their members via a series of five live hour-long webinars. The College provides the webinar platform, facilitates and records each webinar, and shares the recording with the broader College membership via the College website. The live webinars are first available exclusively to members of the society presenting the webinar, and the recordings are then

published on the RACP website two weeks later.

The general format for each webinar is a 30 minute presentation followed by 30 minutes of question time. Feedback received so far indicates this is a highly valued activity. Collaboration between AAAH & SYHPANZ will see 6 Webinar sessions delivered over the next 6 months on topics of Adolescent/Youth Health.

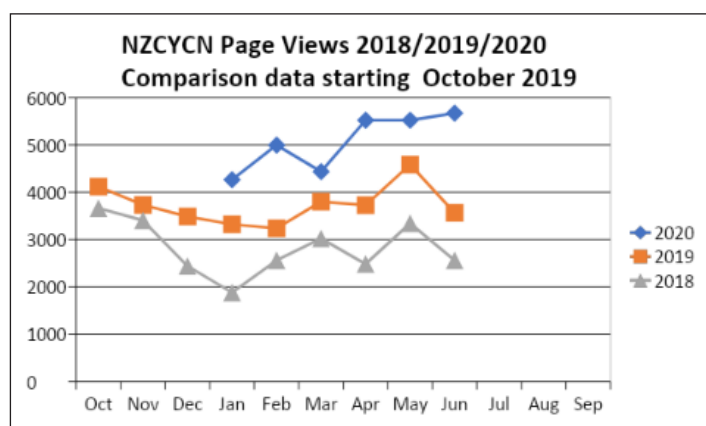
- SYHPANZ will have available to their members webinars on topics: (Australian 3 sessions will be available as recordings for members)
  - Gender Affirming Care for Adolescents Dr Rachel Johnson
  - 'I think I've been raped'.....how to effectively and sensitively manage a disclosure of sexual assault from a young person' Dr Cathy Stephenson.
  - Are we making progress yet? Trends in youth health 2001-2019 in Aotearoa Dr Terry Fleming and Terryann Clark

Youth Health holds particular focus on Taha Tinana within a Te Whare Tapa Whā model, recognising that without appropriate intervention the physical needs of rangatahi remain unmet. The absence of youth-centred intervention prevents young people from thriving, heightens the risk of suffering, and causes them to continuously present to service providers within the health system and other systems. Combatting this potential mortality and morbidity only gains true traction when passionate Youth Health clinicians work with young people in a true holistic, developmentally appropriate and strength-based manner.

## Overview of page access on the NZCYCN Website

Over the past three months page views have been very consistent and are well above figures for previous years. Historically June shows a decrease in web activity, but this has not been the case for 2020. Clinical network activity is busy with several networks currently updating their information and reconfiguring their web pages.

The total number of page views for the month of June 2020 was 5,438.



**YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS** We welcome thoughts, contributions and articles and notices of upcoming events.

Please email the editor, Lauren Young on [lauren@laurenyoung.co.nz](mailto:lauren@laurenyoung.co.nz)