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CDNM Celebrates Research Excellence and Indigenous Leadership

CDNM is pleased to acknowledge two recent events: CDNM's Research Week and CDNM's Inaugural Indigenous Advisory Committee meeting. Both are important milestones in [CDNM's mission](#).

CDNM Research Week

CDNM Research Week 2026 highlighted some of the groundbreaking research that nurses and midwives have undertaken that has brought about real-world change, including new primary and secondary care service models that improve patient outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The program made explicit the prime position that nurses and midwives hold in identifying clinical practice and health system improvements.

"Nurses and midwives are 24-hour workers and their continuous relationships with patients and families, places them in a unique position to provide unique insights into what does and doesn't work," said CDNM Chair, Professor Brendan McCormack. "When these learnings can be translated into research, they often lead to significant improvements."

Nursing leadership in clinical practice and research is closely interwoven. Both are critical to the advancing roles and scopes of practice that nurses and midwives are required to adopt.

New Indigenous Advisory Committee

Late last month, CDNM held its first Indigenous Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee formalises CDNM's previous work in this area and builds on its partnership with CATSINaM (Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives) and Kawa Whakaruruhau Wharangi Ruamano (KWWR).

It is well established that Indigenous patient outcomes are improved when care is culturally safe. This is also true for education outcomes. We need to grow the Indigenous nursing and midwifery workforce in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. This means having more indigenous students enrol in and complete nursing and midwifery higher education degrees – and then retaining them in the workforce after that. CDNM has welcomed the focus on equity and First Nations both in the [Australian Universities Accord](#) and in the recently released [National Nursing Workforce Strategy](#). Both are welcome steps in progressing the equity agenda.

"Previously, we have looked to NZ as a leader in areas of advanced nursing practice and cultural safety. However, we have recently been very concerned about the changes to Nursing Council New Zealand (NCNZ) – NZ's nursing regulatory body."

The changes have reduced the representation of Māori and nurse members on the NCNZ Board.

"This flies in the face of good regulatory practice," Professor McCormack said. "It is also out of step with the International Council of Nurses and with where nursing practice overall is going with increased scopes of practice and leadership roles. We call on governments not to unravel this work at a time that we need it most."

About CDNM

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) "CDNM" is the peak organisation representing universities and other higher education institutions that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand.

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