



FOREWORD

Extraordinary times: COVID-19 pandemic

We are experiencing extraordinary times and there is a real sense of anxiety and vulnerability across our population, including for ourselves and our colleagues, as we work through this pandemic. However, as nurses we can draw comfort and confidence from our broad knowledge base, expert clinical skills, and leadership capabilities. We are used to dealing with the unexpected, problem-solving, and making the systems work for our clients and whānau. We are used to delivering care and services that are empathic and evidence-based. We know how to work in teams and in partnership; we know how to assess, prioritise health needs, and make clinical-decisions; we know how to adhere to infection control practice and teach others; we know how to support people through times of trauma and crisis; and how to support their recovery.

Our current nursing practice stems from nursing's history where we have repeatedly risen to the challenge of war, crisis, poverty, natural disasters, and trauma. We were required to be innovative and adaptive, developing and expanding our skillset and practice. Our predecessors brought us a deep understanding of hand hygiene, sanitation, the importance of fresh air, and nutrition. Such tried and tested practices will help get us through this evolving health crisis. We draw confidence in knowing what we are doing and knowing that the communities we serve trust us to deliver care and expect us to continue to do so with diligence, integrity, and expertise.

Across the multitude of health sector settings, in and out of hospital, nurses will be at the forefront of caring for

and supporting the public through the pandemic and in its aftermath. People's health needs beyond COVID-19 will not abate, and for many their health and wellbeing will worsen due to such challenging changes in circumstance. As always, people who are marginalised and vulnerable will bear the brunt of the health and financial effects. Such groups include people living in deprivation; with long-term physical and mental health and addiction conditions; refugees; people who are homeless people; isolated older people and those living in institutional settings; prisoners and staff; vulnerable children; people who are subject to domestic violence; and so on. We must be mindful to ensure that Māori, and Pacific do not fare worse. We are entering a time where the unknown is looming large. For all of us this is new territory, both in our nursing practice, and in supporting and caring for our own whānau and friends, here and overseas. Whatever our roles, we will be making tough decisions. For now, we need to be kind to ourselves; kind to our leadership; kind to workers across the sector, our junior colleagues, and students; and kind to those returning to practice as they look to us for guidance. We are in it together, no-one is alone. Let's keep talking, sharing, learning, and caring. We've got this.

Kia kaha

Editorial Board
Nursing Praxis in Aotearoa New Zealand