

## **Rural Nurse to Nurse Practitioner Study**

### **Information sheet and invitation to participate**

You are invited to take part in a survey designed to explore the experience of rural nurses who are interested in becoming a Nurse Practitioner and who may or may not have received scholarship funding from the Ministry of Health or the Accident Compensation Corporation to support their education towards that goal.

#### **Introduction**

My name is Professor Jenny Carryer and, together with Professor Julie Boddy and Dr Claire Budge (Research officer), I am surveying rural nurses who are interested in becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Our goal is to gain further understanding as to what helps and what hinders rural nurses in this process and how rural nurses can be better supported in future to make the transition to Nurse Practitioner given the many challenges which exist.

#### **Who can take part?**

All rural nurses who are interested in becoming a Nurse Practitioner are invited to take part.

#### **What would I have to do?**

Complete the attached survey and return it to us within the next two months. By returning the survey you are consenting to take part in this study.

#### **Confidentiality**

This study has been advertised by the NZNO, the College of Nurses and the Ministry of Health and the information sheet and survey have been made available on those organisations' websites and circulated via rural health networks. **Therefore we have not seen the names of any recipients of this invitation.**

Your anonymous response will come directly back to the research officer, Dr. Claire Budge who will enter the data.

The information provided by participants is not linked to individuals in any way as at no point are names requested. Only the research officer will have access to the anonymous survey forms which will be kept in a locked cabinet and will be destroyed after 10 years.

Reports of the findings will be based on grouped data in which **no individual nurse will be identified.**

## **Participants' rights**

Completion and return of the questionnaire implies consent. You have the right to decline to answer any particular question.

A summary of the project findings will be made available to you via those organisation websites when the study is concluded.

## **What will happen to the information I provide?**

It will be combined with the information from other respondents and summarised. Every care will be taken to prevent the identification of any participant in the presentation of the results or in any articles, which will be published as a result of this research study. No identifying information gained during the research will be shared with any other person or organisation.

## **How will the information I provide be of use?**

Becoming a Nurse Practitioner in New Zealand is still a relatively new phenomenon and provides many challenges for those who are considering applying. By letting us know what difficulties you have experienced and also what may have been helpful you will support us to publish our findings and thus guide any future projects aimed to increase the numbers of rural Nurse Practitioners in NZ.

## **Where to from here?**

If you are happy to take part in this project please complete the survey form accompanying this letter and send it back to us to the address provided on the survey. If you want further information please do not hesitate to contact Claire on 03 5285404 or by emailing [jcx@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jcx@inspire.net.nz).

Many thanks

Professor Jenny Carryer  
School of Health and Social Services  
Massey University  
Palmerston North  
027 4491302  
[J.B.Carryer@massey.ac.nz](mailto:J.B.Carryer@massey.ac.nz)

Professor Julie Boddy  
School of Health and Social Services  
Massey University  
Palmerston North  
(06) 350 9099 ext. 2541  
[J.Boddy@massey.ac.nz](mailto:J.Boddy@massey.ac.nz)

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Massey University Human Ethics Committee: Southern A, Application 08/23 . If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research, please contact Professor John O'Neill, Chair, Massey University Human Ethics Committee: Southern A, telephone 06 350 5799 x 8771, email [humanethicsoutha@massey.ac.nz](mailto:humanethicsoutha@massey.ac.nz)

## Rural Nurse to Nurse Practitioner Study

---

Hi,

Please answer the following questions by ticking or filling in the boxes as required, and writing explanations in the spaces provided. **If you run out of space please use the margins or the back of the page.**

When you answer these questions you will see that they don't all apply to you. This is because we want feedback from people who have been successful in becoming a Nurse Practitioner as well as from those who haven't and those who have not yet tried. So, when you get to **question 13 please look out for the box that contains the questions that apply to you and answer those questions.** Otherwise answer all questions.

**Please note that completion and return of the questionnaire implies consent. Many thanks.**

**If you have already completed our survey for recipients of the MoH/ACC nurse practitioner scholarships there is no need to fill out this one**

1. What year were you born?
2. Which are you:  male  female
3. Which ethnic group/s do you identify with? .....
4. In what year were you registered as an RN?
5. Have you received any scholarship support toward completion of a clinical master's degree?  
 no  yes
6. If yes, what was the source of the scholarship? .....
7. What year was your scholarship awarded?
8. What was the title of your position at the time of receiving your scholarship?  
.....
9. How much was your scholarship? \$\_\_\_\_\_
10. Did you receive more than one scholarship?  
 no  yes

11. If yes, please specify the year your second scholarship was awarded:   
who awarded it: ..... and its amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_
12. What is the title of your current position? .....
13. For how long have you been working in your current (or an equivalent) position?  
 years
14. In the space below, please tell us about the nature of your current nursing work e.g the *population you serve*, the *contact you have with other health professionals*, what *opportunities you have for collaboration, consultation* and anything else you think might be relevant.

15. Please **choose the box** which best describes your current degree and Nurse Practitioner status and answer the questions in that box, then go to question 16.

**I have not commenced my Masters degree**

a. Are you actively studying towards a relevant postgraduate certificate or postgraduate diploma? (*By actively studying we mean currently enrolled in a postgraduate paper*)

no       yes

b. If no, have you already completed a relevant postgraduate certificate or diploma?     no       yes

c. If yes, please indicate the year in which you completed it, the name of the qualification and the Institution you gained it from

Year       Qualification .....      Institution .....

d. Do you intend to enrol in a Masters degree?     no       yes

e. If there are any particular reasons why you have been unable to start your Masters degree please tell us about them

*Now go to question 16*

I have not completed my Masters degree

a. Are you actively studying towards a Masters degree?  
(By actively studying we mean currently enrolled in a Masters paper or thesis)

no                       yes

b. What year do you intend to finish your degree?   

c. If there are any particular reasons why you have been unable to finish your degree, please tell us about them.

*now go to question 16*

I have completed my Masters degree but have not applied for NP status

a. Please indicate the year in which you obtained your Masters degree and from which institution

Year

Institution .....

b. Please tell us about why you have not applied for NP status.

*now go to question 16*

I have completed my Masters degree, applied to the NZ Nursing Council for NP status but was not successful

a. Please indicate the year in which you obtained your Masters degree and from which institution

Year

Institution .....

b. Please tell us anything you would like to about your application experiences

c. Do you intend to reapply?

Yes

No

If so, when?

(year)

*now go to question 16*

I have completed my masters degree, applied to the NZ Nursing Council for NP status and have been successful

a. Please indicate the year in which you obtained your Masters degree and from which institution

Year

Institution .....

b. In what year were you authorised as a Nurse Practitioner?

c. Please tell us anything you would like to about the application/interview process

d. What advice would you give to a rural colleague who expressed interest in becoming a Nurse Practitioner?

*now go to question 16*



19. Please describe any issues around study that you feel are specific to you as a rurally-based or urban-based nurse.

---

**The next questions are about becoming a Nurse Practitioner,  
*please answer them whether you are a Nurse Practitioner or not***

---

20. Please tell us about any mentorship you have received during your NP journey. This may have included specific individuals or professional organisation membership or connection to a nurse leader (**note:** there is no need to name individuals).
21. Please describe any **events or experiences** that have assisted you during your NP journey



26. Are you currently working on a portfolio?

- yes, and it is nearly complete       yes, and it is about half finished  
 yes, I have just started       no, it is finished  
 no, but I intend to       no, and I don't intend to

27. In what year are you intending to submit your Nurse Practitioner application?

Year        Not applicable

28. If you no longer intend to become a Nurse Practitioner, please tell us why

N/A

29. Has the possibility of a lack of available employment as a Nurse Practitioner influenced your decision in any way?

yes (*please tell us about it*)       no       N/A

30. It occurs to us that as a rurally-based nurse you may have had limited opportunity to gain the experiences required to meet some of the NP competencies. We think this may be important and therefore, **regardless of whether or not you are a NP**, would like you to describe your own opportunity or lack of opportunity in relation to any of the following competencies.

*Competency 1: Articulates scope of nursing practice and its advancement*

*Competency 2: Shows expert practice working collaboratively across settings and within interdisciplinary environments*

*Competency 3: Shows effective nursing leadership and consultancy*

**Competency 4:**     *Develops and influences health/socio-economic policies and practice at a local and national level*

**Competency 5:**     *Shows scholarly research inquiry into nursing practice*

31. If there is anything else you would like to tell us about your experiences in becoming or working towards becoming a Nurse Practitioner please write them in the space below, or on the back of any page. If you would like to talk to somebody about your experiences please feel free to call the number at the bottom of the survey.

**Please return your completed questionnaire to:  
Dr Claire Budge, Millbank, Old Mill Road, RD3 Motueka.**

Many thanks for filling out this survey.  
If you have any questions or would like to discuss your responses with somebody, please call Claire on 03 5285404 or email [jcx@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jcx@inspire.net.nz)