

# New Zealand National Nursing Organisations

*Many roles, one profession*

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## ***Glossary of Terms***

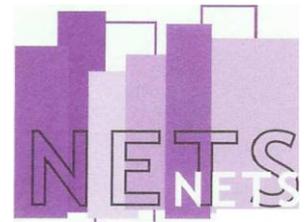
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**Te Ao Maramatanga**

New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses  
(Inc.)

**Partnership, Voice, Excellence in Mental  
Health Nursing**



**Nurse Education in the Tertiary Sector**

***Updated January 2011***

# New Zealand National Nursing Organisations Glossary

## Introduction

Nursing practice in Aotearoa /New Zealand recognises the place of Māori as tangata whenua and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the nation's founding document with a strong relationship with the health sector. The National Council of Māori Nurses had a reserved representative position on the NNO working group and all minutes and draft documents have been circulated to them for review and input. Improving Māori health outcomes is a foundational expectation of nursing practice competencies and underpins this document.

This is a living document that provides description and definition of terminology utilised in relation to nursing practice in Aotearoa /New Zealand. Across many disciplines it is accepted (and sometimes expected) that professionals provide a more specialised and quality enhanced service as their career progresses. This development in both scope and quality of professional practice is a dynamic and continual process that creates challenges for the mapping of a professional career. As with other health professions, nursing practice has become increasingly diverse and complex in response to societal, political and technological challenges.

Clarity in terminology emerges as a key challenge in both describing what currently exists and in planning for new and responsive areas of practice. This glossary builds on international work (much of which has been developed from International Council of Nurses guidelines) and national documents to provide a foundation of agreed terminology that can be used to articulate the contribution that nursing can make to the health care of the public of Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) defines Nursing practice as:

*Using nursing knowledge in a direct relationship with clients or working in nursing management, nursing administration, nursing education, nursing research, nursing professional advice or nursing policy development roles, which impact on public safety.*

The National Professional Development & Recognition Programmes Working Party<sup>1</sup> defined Advanced Nursing Practice as:

*Reflecting a range of highly developed clinical skills and judgements acquired through a combination of nursing experience and postgraduate education. Essentially, advanced nursing practice requires the application of advanced nursing knowledge, with practitioners drawing not only on their own clinical experience, but also on the experience and research of the profession as a whole.*

*Advanced, or advancing, nursing practice is seen on a continuum and is the broad term that is used in New Zealand to encompass a range of developing practice and employment roles underpinned by post registration education and practice expertise.*

**Nursing Council of New Zealand - Regulated Scopes** (see [www.nursingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz) for more detail)

### Enrolled Nurse

Enrolled nurses practise under the direction and delegation of a registered nurse or nurse practitioner to deliver nursing care and health education across the life span to health consumers in community, residential or hospital settings (2010).

### Registered Nurse

Registered Nurses utilise nursing knowledge and complex nursing judgement to assess health needs and provide care, and to advise and support people to manage their health (2010).

### Nurse Practitioner

Expert registered nurses who work within a specific area of practice incorporating advanced knowledge and skills (2008).

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## Glossary

<b>Competence</b>	Competence is the combination of skills, knowledge, attitudes, values and abilities that underpin effective performance as a nurse <sup>2</sup>
<b>Expanded practice</b>	Expanding the boundaries of nursing practice occurs as a professional strategy in response to a changing health care need with increased range of autonomy, accountability and responsibility. There is a formal pathway to role expansion that entails further education and credentialing
<b>Extended practice</b>	The addition of a particular skill or area of practice responsibility usually in response to increased demand or consumer needs <sup>3</sup>
<b>Nursing practice – general</b>	General practice encompasses a comprehensive spectrum of activities. It is directed towards a diversity of people with different health needs, it takes place in a wide range of healthcare settings, and it is reflective of a broad range of knowledge and skills. General practice may occur at any point on the continuum from beginning to advanced practice <sup>4,5</sup>
<b>Nursing practice – specialty</b>	Specialty practice focuses on a particular area of nursing practice. It is directed towards a defined population or a defined area of activity and is reflective of increased depth of knowledge and relevant skills. Specialty practice may occur at any point on the continuum from beginning to advanced practice <sup>4,5</sup>
<b>Specialist</b>	Level of nursing practice <sup>6</sup>
<b>Specialty</b>	Area of nursing practice <sup>6</sup>

## References

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