

AGM Report Nov 2023 - Rachael Jones

I've been with NZATS for the last year as Vice President and what a year. I'd like to thank all the exec for their welcome and Matt for helping me settle in. There's been a lot to learn. I consider it a huge privilege to work alongside this passionate group of people for the better of our profession. I'm looking forward to the next year, supporting the workforce with huge changes.

My main contribution this year has been as Clinical Lead on the Anaesthetic Technician Tactical Group (ATTG). The group was implemented in April following recommendation from the Minister of Health to improve the recruitment and retention of Anaesthetic Technicians. I was fortunate to join the group due to NZATS and in June I became Clinical Lead, bringing an essential clinical perspective. The group was a joint venture with Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora, Union partners, APEX and PSA, Representatives from all levels of service including a good number of Anaesthetic Technicians from around the motu.

Initiatives;

- Retention payment - Successful national payments to the workforce.
- Education payments - Successful national payments agreed, logistics have delayed this getting to staff due to the complexities of different districts and standardising the method.
- Deployment to Waitaha - Uptake minimal.
- Wellbeing subgroup - Hot Debriefing/Clinical supervision.
- National career framework - National Directors of Allied Health Group.
- Voluntary Bonding Scheme - Advocated for ATs, provided information and costings to support. Graduates from 2023. ATTG advocated for 2021 & 2022 graduates to be included.
- UK recruitment trip - Based on previous successful Te Toka Tumai initiative. Recruited 8 ATs with signed contracts and 5 more in process.
- District engagement - Sharing recourses, business plans, initiatives, position descriptions and most importantly having a voice and a way to be heard.
- Initiated a project to develop a national panel, for locum/agency staff.

Survey sent out to ATTG members and stakeholders.

ATTG - 52%

Stakeholders - 27 respondents (78% ATs, 11% operational leaders, 22% professional leaders).

Support for further tactical groups was thought to needed.

Projected further 55.8 FTE will be employed by March 2024, and a further 23 FTE expected in the months after March 2024.