

2023 NZATS AUT Liaison Report

Another busy year for the Executive Committee, one that is leading towards significant change for us as a registered profession in years to come.

Megan Richardson, Head of the Perioperative Practice program at AUT, presented a fitting farewell to the Diploma at the end-of-year Training & Development meeting. Anaesthetic Technicians of the future will now all qualify with a Degree in Perioperative Practice and all the opportunities that brings with it. On behalf of the NZATS Executive Committee and our members, I would like to thank Mike Smith for having the courage to take on the challenge of developing a new degree course as well as Megan, Ciaran Cliff and the rest of the permanent and casual lecturers at AUT. I have personally observed their passion and enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge and experience with students, which makes me optimistic for the future.

One of the responsibilities of my Executive role is to represent NZATS on the Perioperative Practice Programme Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of various stakeholders from public and private hospitals, AUT, Anaesthetic Technician professionals and Anaesthetists. We have had one meeting earlier this year, with another due in December. I also join the Clinical Centre Leads for their online meetings, hosted by AUT, where they share knowledge of how they run their student clinical placements, and discuss any issues that arise. This allows me to keep informed of what's happening at AUT and around the country in terms of student education.

This year I organised the inaugural Educators' Forum in Wellington for members in designated educator roles, which was well attended and resulted in some useful discussion around student clinical placements in particular. This forum replaced the Training and Development meeting that used to be held in June/July and given the success will continue to be an annual event on the NZATS calendar

Earlier this year the Medical Sciences Council sought feedback around a review of our scope of practice and a potential name change. I look forward to seeing where this leads us, with particular interest in the evolution of our qualifications.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and passion for our profession that drives this group of people up here with me. You are all inspirational in your own way. Thank you, Matt, Cathie, Nicky, Leanne, Katrina P, Rachael, Nicky, Willow and Gary for your continued support and another awesome year working with you.

Katrina Walsh