During 2014 the Council undertook an election process for three nurse members to be represented on Council for a three year term ending September 2017.

The Council is now in the process of commencing Vote 17 which will see three members of the Council being elected from their nursing peers.

On completion of Vote 17 a list of candidate results will be forwarded to the Minister of Health. This election supports the Minister’s aim that the Nursing Council's board would be made up of:
- Three nurse members appointed by the Minister;
- Three lay members appointed by the Minister; and
- Three nurse members being elected by the profession.

Elected members will serve for a period of three years. The next election will be undertaken in 2020.

This information package has been designed to inform you of how the process for electing new members to Council will be undertaken and how you can participate in the process. In the first instance it is important to reiterate the legislative parameters of the Nursing Council’s role and what is the Council’s primary responsibility.

The Council’s role and responsibility is governed by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act). Under this legislation the Council is to protect the health and safety of New Zealanders by ensuring that every nurse registered is “competent and fit” to practise nursing. This means that the Council’s primary focus is to protect public safety through the regulation of the profession and by setting standards for competent practice within each of the registered nurse scopes of practice.

Consequential aspects of the Council’s work addresses the educational preparation required for individuals to be entered on the register, investigating complaints about poor practice or misconduct, monitoring nurses who may have health issues which may compromise their ability to provide safe nursing as well as reviewing and monitoring nurses who may have competency issues.

The work of the Council has significance to the wider public, to the profession and to each and every nurse. Not surprisingly then, serving as a Council member demands a considerable commitment from the people who wish to make a contribution. This election process provides an opportunity for nurses who feel able to make this commitment to be more directly involved or to nominate a professional colleague to stand for a position on the Council.

Carolyn Reed
Chief Executive/Registrar

For assistance phone the ELECTION HELPLINE 0800 666 045 or email iro@electionz.com
Who can be nominated to stand for Council?

Any nurse registered by the Nursing Council of New Zealand, as at 5:00 pm Friday 30 June 2017 with a current annual practising certificate and a New Zealand residential address may be nominated.

Who can vote for Council members?

Any nurse on the “voting roll” i.e. the register of the Nursing Council of New Zealand with a current annual practising certificate and a New Zealand residential address as at the close of nominations at 5:00 pm Friday 30 June 2017 may cast a vote.

What does being a Councillor involve?

Anyone thinking about standing for the Council must appreciate that the work of the Council takes considerable time.

It involves attending regular meetings of the full Council every six weeks and additional meetings as required, plus serving on Council committees.

Most meetings are in Wellington at the Council offices.

As a significant time commitment is involved, members may find they need to negotiate a reduced workload in their current position to allow them to take on the commitment to the Council. The Council cannot function effectively unless Councillors are able to commit the time required to make a difference for both the profession and the public.

THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

For more information on what the Nursing Council does visit our website on www.nursingcouncil.org.nz

The work of the Council is governed by section 118 of the HPCA Act 2003 which states:

Functions of authorities

The functions of each authority appointed in respect of a health profession are as follows:

(a) to prescribe the qualifications required for scopes of practice within the profession, and, for that purpose, to accredit and monitor educational institutions and degrees, courses of studies, or programmes:

(b) to authorise the registration of health practitioners under this Act, and to maintain registers:

(c) to consider applications for annual practising certificates:

(d) to review and promote the competence of health practitioners:

(e) to recognise, accredit, and set programmes to ensure the ongoing competence of health practitioners:

(f) to receive and act on information from health practitioners, employers, and the Health and Disability Commissioner about the competence of health practitioners:

(g) to notify employers, the Accident Compensation Corporation, the Director-General of Health, and the Health and Disability Commissioner that the practice of a health practitioner may pose a risk of harm to the public:

(h) to consider the cases of health practitioners who may be unable to perform the functions required for the practice of the profession:

(i) to set standards of clinical competence, cultural competence, and ethical conduct to be observed by health practitioners of the profession:

(j) to liaise with other authorities appointed under this Act about matters of common interest:

(k) to promote education and training in the profession:

(l) to promote public awareness of the responsibilities of the authority:

(m) to exercise and perform any other functions, powers, and duties that are conferred or imposed on it by or under this Act or any other enactment.

HOW LONG WILL THE PROCESS TAKE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 June 2017</td>
<td>Receipt of nominations from candidates, candidate acceptances, biographical sketches and statements to voters must be received by 5.00 pm. Late nominations will not be considered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 August 2017</td>
<td>Instructions to voters will be emailed to those members with email addresses and voting papers posted to those members who do not have email addresses. Voting will now be open.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 September 2017</td>
<td>Returned voting papers are to be received by 5.00 pm. Late votes will not be considered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 September 2017</td>
<td>Results will be notified to the Minister of Health by 5.00 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>The three nurse members of the Council will commence as Council members for a three year period on confirmation and approval by the Minister of Health.</td>
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