

# **Key Challenges for Occupational Health Nursing**

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# Challenge

- Employers trimming services
- Risk of cost, rather than quality, driven OHN service

# How is NZOHNA responding?

- Supporting a competency framework to ensure those with the skill and experience providing services are endorsed
  - Recent appointment of a Professional Development Coordinator

# Challenge

- PHO funding for primary health initiatives
- Nurses funded to undertake opportunistic screening in workplaces
- Occupational Health omitted in Primary Health Strategy document

# How is NZOHNA responding?

- Dialogue with Chief Nurse – Ministry of Health
- Discussion with local PHOs being encouraged

# Challenge

- Professional standards recognition
- Lack of standardisation with H&S

## How is NZOHNA responding?

- Slowly .... could be faster!
- Needs a coordinated approach

**NZOHNA endorses the NOHSAC recommendation...**

**“Establish minimum standards for occupational health and safety consultants to ensure advice and services provided to workplaces reflects current practice and knowledge”**

**“The Department of Labour maintains and promotes a register of accredited occupational and safety consultants on its website”**

Pearce N, Dryson E, Gander P, Langley J, Wagstaffe M  
National profile of occupational health and safety in New Zealand.  
Report to the Minister of Labour. NOHSAC: Wellington, 2007

# Challenge

- **Defining Occupational Health Nursing**
- **What services are Occupational Health Nurses competent to deliver?**
- **What do they do?**

# How is NZOHNA responding?

- Known: 417 RNs call themselves OHNs  
(Nursing Council Oct 2008)
- Only 210 are members of NZOHNA
- Survey of membership is planned
- Provide baseline data

# In conclusion

**“Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless,  
and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and  
dreadful”**

**(Samuel Johnson: 1709-1784)**

**Thank you for your attention**



