

# **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**



