

Council for Nurses and Midwives

Malta

Annual report

Year 2004

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Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the first annual report of the Council of Nurses and Midwives.

This Council has succeeded the Board of Nurses and Midwives and following the enactment of the new legislation, this Council has been set up. The Council has faced the obvious challenges of any new organization, however, concurrently to this it has and still is facing the new realities of membership of the European Union. The nursing and midwifery profession has opened up to the potential increase in numbers of non Maltese practitioners. This year has not seen a dramatic increase in such numbers, however, the Council has a responsibility towards the profession and to the patient to assure itself that any person registered as a nurse or a midwife would be able to give the high standard of care we are accustomed to.

The Council has embarked on much needed project of updating the Register of Nurses and Midwives, which in the past new entrants were merely added to. The current register includes persons who have deceased and emigrated and retired. Therefore, our task is to give a true picture of the profession.

I would like to thank the Registrar for her dedication and fellow Council members for the constant input throughout this year.

Dr Malcolm Mifsud

INTRODUCTION

This Council for Nurses and Midwives (CNM) Annual Report is the first of its kind and covers the period from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004. The report aims to give a brief account of CNM performance.

Law

Health Care Professions Act (HCPA) 2003

Aim

The COUNCIL FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES, Malta (CNM) regulates the Nursing and Midwifery Professions in Malta. Its function is defined in the Health Care Professions Act 2003.

One of the main functions of the CNM is to regulate the entry to and exit from a register of health care professional if he/she is a nurse or a midwife. The Council is responsible for the upholding of high professional and educational standards for both professions. CNM is committed towards the attainment of excellence in the delivery of professional care by encouraging continuing professional development amongst its registrants.

Members

The following have been appointed by the Prime Minister at the end of February 2004.

1 President: Dr Malcolm Mifsud, LL. M. (IMLI), LL. D.

1 First level Registered Nurse: Ms Marisa Vella

1 Licensed Midwife: Ms Rita Borg Xuereb, MSc., PQ Dip.Mid.Ed., Dip.Ed.Adult., R.M.,
R.N.

2 lay persons: Mr Giovanni De Martino;
Ms Bernardette Borda, B.A., Diploma in Diplomatic Studies

The following were elected from amongst and by all nurses and midwives in February.

3 First Level Registered Nurses: Mr. Thomas Dimech; Mr Alexander Manche';
Mr Paul Pace

1 Second Level Registered Nurse: Mrs. Rita Briffa

1 nurse whose name is entered in any of the special parts of the Register of Nurses:
Ms Mary Azzopardi

2 Licensed Midwives: Ms Maria Assunta Cassar; Ms Doreen Cilia



1 ex-officio (Director Nursing Services):

Mr Jesmond Sharples, MBA, MMus(Comp)(Lond), BSc(Hons)(Nurs), Dip.Ger., FLCM,
SRN

1 Registrar: Ms Karen Bonello, Dip. Mangt.

Meetings

The appointed President and members were appointed on 25th February, they were informed of such appointment on 25th March. Thus, the first CNM meeting was held in April.

In 2004 CNM held 10 meetings.

CNM has set up 7 Subcommittees. These subcommittees meet whenever there is an exigency, sometimes even more than once monthly. The Registrar assists and supports these subcommittees.

Sotto Kumitat għar-Registrazzjoni t'Applikanti Barranin tal-qwiebel

(Subcommittee for foreign applications for midwives)

Ms Rita Borg Xuereb, Ms Maria Cassar, Ms Doreen Cilia

Sotto Kumitat għar-Registrazzjoni t'Applikanti Barranin tal-infermiera

(Subcommittee for foreign applications for nurses)

Ms Rita Briffa, Mr Alex Manche', Ms Marisa Vella

Sotto Kumitat tad-Dixiplina

(Disciplinary subcommittee)

Dr Malcolm Mifsud, Ms Maria Cassar, Mr Thomas Dimech - in case there are persons whom Mr Dimech defended, Ms Briffa would substitute him

Sotto Kumitat għall-Continuing Education

(Subcommittee for Continuing Education)

Ms Mary Azzopardi, Ms Rita Borg Xuereb, Mr Paul Pace, Ms Marisa Vella

Sotto Kumitat għar-Registru

(Registry subcommittee)

Ms Mary Azzopardi, Mr Giovanni DeMartino, Mr Alex Manche'

Sotto Kumitat għall-Liġi

(Legal subcommittee)

Dr Malcolm Mifsud, Mr Paul Pace

Sotto Kumitat għall-Live Register

(Live Register subcommittee)

Ms Margaret Abela, Ms Rita Borg Xuereb, Ms Marisa Vella, Mr Jesmond Sharples

CNM nominated Mr Jesmond Sharples and Ms Marisa Vella (as substitute) as members of the MEUSAC (Malta EU Steering and Action Committee).

Elections

During 2004, 2 elections were held one to elect CNM members and the other to elect the Appeal Committee member. The Registrar assisted each Electoral Commissions who were nominated.

The Election Commission to elect CNM members was nominated by the Minister of Health, The Elderly and Community Care on 19th December 2003. It was composed of Ms Margaret Abela, Mr Mario Hili and Mr Andrew Xuereb. The Registrar, CNM, received nominations of candidates' forms on Monday 23rd February 2004. The elected members were elected for a period of three (3) years as from 23rd February 2004 as explained in members' section in page 5.

The Election Commission to elect Appeal Committee member was nominated by the Council on 11th May 2004. It was composed of Mr Lawrence Bonavia, Mr Paul Buttigieg, Ms Maria Cutajar, Mr Sandro Rossi and Mr George Buttigieg ~ as substitute. The Registrar, CNM, received nominations of candidate's form on Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd and Monday 5th July. The elected member, Mr Colin Galea, was elected for a period of three (3) years as from 5th July 2004.

Registers

During 2004, CNM considered 210 applications.

- ⊗ 35 of which have completed and been awarded the Degree in Nursing Studies.
- ⊗ 72 have completed and been awarded the Diploma in Nursing.
- ⊗ While 20 have completed the EN to SN Conversion Course.
- ⊗ The reminder, that is, 83 applications were considered either by the subcommittee of foreigner nurses or that of midwives.

The amount of persons entered in the Register of Midwives amounted to 4. Four licences were signed by the Minister of Health, Community Care and The Elderly and by the President of Malta were issued.

The sum of individuals entered in the Register of Nurses in Part I in respect of first level registered nurses amounted to 134, while persons entered in the Special Parts in respect of nurses trained in the different special areas amounted to 2.

The registers, which were initiated in 1945, expanded to include 5,220 nurses and 365 midwives by 31st December 2003. Circulars were issued in May 2004 to various entities; Primary Health Care, Education Division, unions, government and private homes and hospitals, private agencies, DH circular amongst others, to update the registers.

Following (overleaf) is the information regarding applications received:

Table 1: Registers

	<u>Totals from 1945 till 2003</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Information that was correct on registers</u>	<u>Amended Data</u>
Midwives	365	28	96	41
1 st level (Staff Registered Nurses)	2551	52	793	515
2 nd level (Enrolled Nurses)	2512	93	320	216
<u>Special Parts:</u>				
Registered Nurses for the Mentally sick	71	1	26	5
Enrollment for the Mentally sick	26	2	4	
Registered Nurses for Sick Children	8		2	
Enrolled Nurses for Sick Children	2			2
Registered Nurses for the Mentally Handicapped	7		3	1
Enrollment Nurses for the Mentally Handicapped	2			
Register of Nurses trained in Adult Nursing	10			
Register of Nurses (Mental)	31	1	3	2
Non-Existent addresses	33 of which 27 were 1st level & 6 were 2nd level	1 from 1 st level		1 1 st level 1 2 nd level

Allegations of misconduct

There were a number of allegations of misconduct dating from 1993 to 2002, which have been left pending by the Nursing and Midwifery Board. The Council dealt with these pending allegations of misconduct. They were examined by the respective subcommittee and further by the Council. All pending cases have been concluded except for 2, since the Council is waiting for replies for further investigations.

This year CNM received one new complaint. A file was opened. The respective subcommittee considered the case gave its advice to CNM.

Following is a table regarding cases investigated and their results:

Table 2: Allegations of misconduct

<u>Date of Complaint</u>	<u>Investigation</u>	<u>Result</u>
8 th March 1993		Time Barred according to HCPA
29 th September 1995		Time Barred according to HCPA
15 th May 1997	Letter has been sent to complaint	Time Barred by complaint
3 rd July 1995	Registered letter has been sent to complaint	Still waiting for reply
24 th May 1999	Letter was sent to the alleged accused	Letter returned back unclaimed
27 th March 2002	Registered letter has been sent to complaint	Still waiting for reply
28 th August 2004	Hearing was held	Not found guilty of any breach of professional ethics

Administration

In 2004, 49 new files were opened. There were numerous correspondences from different entities and the public.

Queries were dealt with either by phone, email, letters or those who came in person to Registrar, CNM office.

KAREN BONELLO, DIP. MANGT.,
REGISTRAR