



Tēnā koutou katoa

I was born in Pahiatua and now reside in Te Awamutu. My parents were from English descent. He Māori aku tamariki. Ko Shannon, ko Phillip, Ko Nastassjia and Ko Talitha Te Huia. Nō pare te kawa- Ngāti Maniapoto rāua. He tokomaha aku mokopuna. Ko Suzette au.

I feel very honoured to have been elected as College President to provide professional leadership in partnership with the Kaiwhakahaere, College Board, Māori Caucus, Branch Chairs, Fellows and members. I am looking forward to co-creating a plan to boldly lead our profession into the 2020s and beyond. The energy generated by keynote speakers, presenters, workshop facilitators and nurses at our recent College conference will certainly light up the pathway forward that has been forged so far by previous College presidents and Kaiwhakahaere.

I have been a member of the College since inception and have served as chair of the practice board as well as a dedicated board member and more recently as the events director.

My career in mental health began in 1980 as a Psychiatric Assistant. In 1985, I qualified as a Psychiatric Nurse at Tokanui Hospital. I specialised in forensic mental health. Leadership roles include: Clinical Nurse Educator, Clinical Nurse Director (Waikato DHB) and Nurse Advisor – Health (Nursing Council of NZ). My Masters of Nursing thesis was on structural and psychological empowerment among NZ mental health and addiction nurses. I am an honorary lecturer at the University of Auckland and recently appointed to the editorial board of Journal of Mental Health and Addiction Nursing.

My current role is Clinical Lead at Te Pou o te Whakaaro Nui. Projects include supervision; trauma informed care; women in secure mental health care and co-existing problems. I am the co-editor of *Handover* alongside Caro Swanson - service user lead, a remarkable woman who keeps me focused on the people we serve.