

Heather is a Registered Comprehensive Nurse who practices within Mental Health, Addictions and Intellectual Disability. Her current role is a nursing leadership role within Southern District Health Board.

She believes that nurses make a significant difference to peoples' experience of mental illness, addictions or intellectual disability and it is this belief that underpins her practice as a Registered Nurse and a leader.

Heather completed a Master of Arts Degree in Nursing through Victoria University in 2001 focusing on nursing leadership, policy development and nursing empowerment. She has influenced nursing nationally and regionally (practice, policy and facilitating leadership) through a variety of nursing leadership roles over more than two decades. Heather is a past president and fellow of Te Ao Maramatanga the College of Mental Health Nurses in New Zealand. One of the more recent College projects involved increasing the capability and capacity of primary care nurses to respond to Mental Health and Addictions needs in the primary care setting (the credentialing programme). Heather has also contributed to Nurse Practitioner development in New Zealand and the four NP roles within the Southern DHB have significantly impacted on the health care provided to people in terms of timeliness and quality of care.