



Sue Stebbeings

Iwi: NZ European

NP area of practice: Acute Care
Lifespan (2016)

Employed by: NDHB

Based: Whangarei Emergency
Department

Sue commenced practice as a Nurse Practitioner in Whangarei Emergency Department in November 2016. She was the first Nurse Practitioner employed by NDHB in secondary care and at that time was supported along this pathway by Margaret Dreadon, Clinical Nurse Manager and Margareth Broodkoorn, Director of Nursing.

Escalating numbers of ED presentations requires new strategies and resources to facilitate equitable waiting times and quality care for our population. The Nurse Practitioner scope of practice provides the ability to assess and manage a broad range of ED presentations autonomously and collaboratively.

The primary focus of the role is clinical practice. Additional components involve education, quality initiatives and support of advanced nursing practice. There is strong support from the ED team for the Nurse Practitioner role that includes mentoring by the ED consultants.

Sue's initial nursing training was completed at Whangarei Hospital in 1984. Many years of emergency nursing experience and post graduate study provided the foundation and inspiration to qualify as a Nurse Practitioner. A Clinical Nurse Specialist role was established as an intern role in 2014 while Sue completed the Masters of Nursing along the Nurse Practitioner Pathway in 2015. The clinical and prescribing practicums provided valuable steps in the transition to working autonomously within the Nurse Practitioner scope.

Advice for aspiring Nurse Practitioners – “The support of colleagues and family was essential in the journey to Nurse Practitioner registration and in continuing to develop my practice. Get advice about the best ways to develop your own practice. Good clinical mentoring is essential. The journey to NP is part of developing your practice and is worth it. “