

## from the PRESIDENT



**Ramziah Binti Ahmad**  
CNMF President

Writing the Commonwealth Nurse editorial provides me with a time to reflect on what has been achieved and set, sometimes ambitious goals, for future achievements in the year ahead. In this edition of the Commonwealth Nurses we share the CNMF Strategic Plan which addresses the seven CNMF strategic objectives: programs, membership, Communication, liaison, governance, administration and finances.

The CNMF aims to be a responsible and responsive organisation with a focus on achieving practical outcomes for members with members. Consequently, our programs are designed to produce practical outcomes.

The Mental Health Legislation Reform project, funded by the Commonwealth Foundation, came to an end 31 December 2016. The CNMF is hoping to continue to work with Botswana and the Seychelles during 2017 to finalise the new Mental Health Bill and see it submitted to Parliament.

The CNMF has been funded by The Burdett Trust to run three maternal health programs in Sierra Leone and also to conduct a nurses' health program in the South Pacific in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands and Kiribati. We will report to you on the progress of these projects through the monthly CNMF e-News.

The African Regional Collaborative (ARC) partnership comes to an end in August 2017 and at this stage it is unclear whether it will receive any further funding. The ARC partnership has made a significant contribution to improving leadership, regulation and standards during its five years of operation in the east, central and southern Africa region. The gains have been outstanding and it will be disappointing if the initiative comes to a close.

Another exciting project for the CNMF this year is the development of an online archive linked to the CNMF website and the digitisation of current and past CNMF records. This means that the CNMF records and history will be safely stored in one place and be available in a searchable form to the CNMF Board, researchers and members. Some paper records of historical value will be kept.

The CNMF is an Executive Member of the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance (CHPA). In May in Geneva, the CHPA and the Commonwealth Foundation, together with other partners, the Third World Network and the International Community of Women living with HIV and AIDs in East Africa, hosted a Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum in Geneva to coincide with the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting. The forum had three strands: Universal health coverage; Structural violence against women; and the Politics of Wellbeing. In this issue of the Commonwealth Nurse we bring you the very interesting presentation from Dr Saamah Abdallah on Wellbeing. The other presentations are available from <http://chpa.co>.

Finally, a reminder to save the date for the 23<sup>rd</sup> CNMF Biennial Meeting of Members which will be held on Friday 9 March at the Royal College of Nursing, London UK. The Biennial Meeting is the decision making body of the CNMF.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference will be held at the Royal College of Physicians, Regent's Park, London on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 March next year. The title for the conference is *Leading the Way: nurses and midwives for a safe, healthy and peaceful world*.

Our world today is far from being safe, healthy or peaceful. Many countries are experiencing civil conflict; refugees are seeking a safe place to live for themselves and their families; bush fires, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis are a frequent occurrence; diseases such as Ebola and Zika threaten health and stability; climate change threatens entire populations. Nurses and midwives are in a unique position to act as role models and lead the way in promoting a safe, healthy and peaceful world. The conference provides an opportunity for nurses and midwives across the Commonwealth to share their knowledge and experience, network with each other, and make new friends. I look forward to seeing you there.