

## Ex-directors reluctant to break confidentiality

THREE BOARD members, who resigned together in April, are reluctant to speak of their experiences on, and decision to quit the NZNO board.

Anne Daniels, Katrina Hopkinson and Sela Ikavuka were elected last September after campaigning for transparency, unity and action on behalf of the NZNO members action group (MAG).

They took up the roles in the aftermath of a rancorous special general meeting (SGM) over a board attempt to remove former president Grant Brookes.

But seven months later, on April 28, all three resigned, claiming they were unable to fulfil their campaign promises. "We believe NZNO and the board should be a safe place to be. However, right from the start, we were required to sign a confidentiality agreement before the first meeting," their joint statement said at the time.

Brookes had resigned earlier that month and vice-president Cheryl Hanham in March.

Daniels, Hopkinson and Ikavuka have declined *Kai Tiaki Nursing New Zealand's* request for an interview, citing the confidentiality agreement they signed at the start of their board term.

However, in a short statement, they said "events following [Brookes' resignation] were the catalyst for our resignation".



Anne Daniels



Sela Ikavuka



Katrina Hopkinson

They would not specify those events but said they remained "traumatised" by their experiences.

Three confidential board meetings were held after Brookes' resignation – two on April 23 and one on April 24. After Hop-

kinson, Daniels and Ikavuka resigned on April 28, a fourth took place on April 29 with the remaining six directors.

All were "in-committee" and the minutes are confidential.

In an interview in the May issue

of *Kai Tiaki Nursing New Zealand* (p7), Nuku said the three had shown "a lack of governance understanding and responsibility to members". Responding to this, the trio said it was "disrespectful", failed to recognise their experience and had "tarnished our reputations".

Despite their difficulties on the board, they were involved in adding kindness to board values, setting up a district health board multi-employment collective agreement subcommittee to ensure members' voices were heard, launching regional board meetings and, with Brookes, developing a remit to start the journey towards nurse-patient ratios.

Simon Auty is the sole MAG member remaining on the board, alongside Andrew Cunningham and Te Rūnanga members Anamaria Watene, Margaret Hand, kaiwhakahaere Kerri Nuku and tumu whakarae Titihuia Pakeho. •

## Second petition rejected by Musa

A SECOND petition, signed by 521 members, has been rejected by NZNO chief executive Memo Musa.

Lodged by Naomi Waipouri and Awa Love in May, the petition called on Musa to call a special general meeting (SGM) where members could vote to reject any SGM "where members have not been fully informed from both parties' officials prior to signing a petition . . ."

It also proposed members reject any SGM called outside of the constitution.

But Musa said in June the resolution "was not sufficiently defined". To accept it would have required an amendment to the constitution and there was ambiguity about whether or not the petition was calling for that, he said.

"As a result, I have decided that, as it is currently drafted, the resolution is not able to be voted on at an SGM," he said. "As with the first petition, I have not taken

this decision lightly."

The petition came on the heels of an earlier one which sought removal of the NZNO board, and fresh full-board elections. Signed by 1038 financial members, that was also rejected by Musa in June, as "unconstitutional".

Musa, who sought two legal opinions, advised democratically-elected board members could not be removed without specific grounds identified in the constitution such as misconduct, neglect of duty or theft.

Both petitions followed the resignations of vice-president Cheryl Hanham in March, and president Grant Brookes and directors Katrina Hopkinson, Sela Ikavuka and Anne Daniels in April, leaving just six of 11 NZNO board members.

Musa said he hoped he could now focus on advocating for members in their workplaces, as "dealing with these two petitions has taken up an enormous amount of time". •