Kia ora! I am Jennifer. I am a principal lecturer and have worked in the School of Veterinary Nursing at Otago Polytechnic since 2005. I grew up in Northern California and immigrated to NZ in 2002. I now live in Christchurch with my family and pets. We have 27 acres where we are restoring biodiversity by creating a native reserve.

Professionally, I am a USA trained veterinary technician and NZ Registered Veterinary Nurse. I have 20 years' experience in veterinary practices overseas and in New Zealand. I have worked in many different clinical environments. My undergraduate degree major was in Neurobiology, Physiology & Behaviour and I also have a degree in Chemistry. I am currently working on my doctorate about professionalisation in veterinary nurses.

Since 2010 I have been the Consultant Editor of the UK peer-reviewed journal, The Veterinary Nurse, and I am on the Editorial Board of the open access, EBVM journal Veterinary Evidence, which is published by RCVS Knowledge. I am also a consultant editor on Vetstream.

I have been an executive board member on the New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association since 2009 and am one of the founders and chair of the Allied Veterinary Professional Regulatory Council of New Zealand, established in 2014 as a working committee of NZVNA. I have been instrumental at establishing New Zealand's first register of veterinary nurses.

Being part of the NZVNA is important to me, to give back to the community, and to help develop veterinary nursing professionalism in NZ. We have accomplished a lot in this last 5 years and I am committed to continuing progress toward regulation of VNs and protection of title within NZ. I believe that as a professional community, we have the ingenuity and drive to see big things happen.

Jennifer Hamlin