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Headline News

National Mentoring Pilot

AGPN is pleased to advise that we have been successful in our application to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to conduct a twelve month pilot, to provide structured mentoring as a support function for nurses in general practice. The National Mentoring Pilot will provide an opportunity to raise awareness and develop expertise across the divisions network in the provision of mentoring for nurses in general practice. The pilot will be informed by the 2005 *Hanging from a String in the Wind* consultancy study undertaken by Heartfield et. al. to develop a mentoring framework for nurses in general practice. AGPN has invited the Australian Mentor Centre to work with us in undertaking this important project.

The pilot program will include a 2 day training program for mentors and mentees, conducted by the Australian Mentor Centre. Training programs will be held in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide during July and early August. We are hoping to recruit around 100 mentors and 85 mentees for the pilot. Divisions program officers involved in providing practice nurse support and experienced practice nurses will be eligible to apply to join the pilot as mentors. Practice nurses will be eligible to apply for mentee places. Funding will be provided to support travel and accommodation to the training programs for both mentors and mentees.

Mentoring groups involving a division program officer and group of local practice nurses; and mentoring circles involving special interest groups of practice nurses will also be established under the pilot.

Mentors and mentees will be formally matched through the Australian Mentor Centre and ongoing support will be provided for the mentoring partnerships.

Further information regarding this exciting project, including dates for the training workshops and expressions of interest applications will be made available shortly.

National Practice Nurse Workforce Survey

AGPN has been requested by DoHA to repeat the National Practice Nurse Workforce Survey in 2007. This survey provides important information to support and inform the Australian Government's Nursing in General Practice Initiative. It is the only comprehensive report of the nature and characteristics of the practice nurse workforce.

In order to streamline the collection process the survey will be made available electronically. We plan to collect the data with the assistance of the divisions network during July and August 2007.

We greatly value your support and assistance in promoting the survey to your practices and practice nurses, and urge you to be involved in this important work.

Further information will be provided in the near future.

National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum

Once again this year we have received keen interest in the National NiGP Forum with approximately 140 delegates registered to attend. An interesting and invigorating program is planned. The final program including guest presenters will be finalised over the next few weeks.

Expression of interest will be called from divisions interested in showcasing their work. These presentations were particularly popular with delegates last year and provide an important opportunity to share expertise and experience

Other News

Draft Competency Standards for registered nurses in general practice performing an antenatal service

RCNA has advised that the draft competency standards for registered nurses in general practice providing an antenatal service on behalf of a general practitioner in accordance with the Medicare Item 16400, are now available for comment. The draft competencies can be found at: <http://www.rcna.org.au/pages/antenatal.php> . The competencies will remain on the website for comment for a period of one month.

The competencies have been developed to inform the development of a training program to support registered nurses who will be involved in providing antenatal services in general practice in accordance with the Medicare item. RCNA plan to pilot a training program in the second half of this year with a view to having the program available by the end of 2007.

Practice Nurse Work Survey - Call for participants

Dr Catherine Joyce, of the Monash University Department of General Practice, is currently undertaking a study of the services provided by Practice Nurses in Australian general practice. The study is looking at practice nurses' clinical duties and their other, non-clinical activities.

They are looking for qualified nurses (Registered or Enrolled) who are currently working in a general practice or primary care setting eligible to receive Medicare rebates (e.g. an Aboriginal Medical Service).

The study involves completion of a questionnaire about your background characteristics, and the characteristics of the practice in which you work, which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. The study also involves completing encounter forms for 50 consecutive contacts with individual patients. The forms record information about the consultation, such as characteristics of the patient, their reason for seeing you, the procedures or services you provided, and how long it took. Each form takes approximately one minute to complete.

Participating nurses have the option to receive an individual feedback report from the study about their work profile compared to group averages.

Practice Nurses are a rapidly growing and evolving workforce and this study will provide important information about what Practice Nurses are doing in their current work, and their role in providing primary care to the Australian community.

Further information See: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/general-practice/pnws.html>

Chief Investigator: Dr Catherine Joyce Phone: 03 8575 2256

Email catherine.joyce@med.monash.edu.au.

It's not too late to join the Nurses and Midwives e-Cohort

With thanks RCNA ebulletin 13th April 2007

- What career pathways do new nursing and midwifery graduates follow, and how long do they stay in practice?
- Why do nurses and midwives leave the profession or return to practice?
- How many nurses and midwives over the age of 65 are still working and how long will they continue to do so?
- What are the commonest musculo-skeletal disorders experienced by nurses and midwives and what impact do these have on work choices?
- What changes are needed in nursing and midwifery to accommodate the ageing of the workforce and the population?

Nurses and midwives from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom who join the e-Cohort are contributing to their professions by providing one part of the data to answer these questions.

The online survey takes approximately 45 minutes to complete and asks, among other things, about current work experience, retirement plans, country of first nursing or midwifery qualification, further education, practice specialty, general health, and musculo-skeletal injury.

To register in the study, you'll need your current registration number, your date of birth and a current email address. Please visit the website www.e-cohort.net and register today.

The Dementia Series 2 DVD & video set available free

The Dementia Series 2 comprises five health and medical educational television programs on dementia, to support the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing initiative *Helping Australians with dementia and their carers – making dementia a National Health Priority* (the Dementia Initiative).

The five programs in the series are:

- Dementia: Assessment and Diagnosis (originally broadcast Tuesday 21 November 2006).
- Dementia and Physical Co-morbidity (originally broadcast Wednesday 6 December 2006).
- Dementia, Mental Health and Neurological Co-morbidities (originally broadcast Tuesday 30 January 2007).
- Quality Use of Medicine in Dementia Care (originally broadcast Tuesday 20 February 2007).
- Dementia: Carers and Families (originally broadcast Tuesday 27 February 2007).

To order a free DVD or VHS video set of the *Dementia Series 2*, please email us at dementia@rhef.com.au; ring us on (02) 6232 5480 or fax us on (02) 6232 5484 specifying your preferred format and providing your name, organisation, postal address, contact telephone number and email address.

One set per organisation or bona fide health professional only. Offer applies to Australian organisations or individuals only while copies last.

For information on other programs available for purchase from the Rural Health Education Foundation, go to our DVD & video order page.

"Keep Safe" DVD available free from the Rural Health Education Foundation

With thanks National Rural health Alliance eforum 1 April 2007

The Rural Health Education Foundation has been generously funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to offer our injury prevention program, Keep Safe, on DVD or VHS video for free.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are three times more likely to die from injury than other Australians. The Keep Safe, <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/606/606.html>, program, initially

broadcast in May 2006, offers models and ideas for communities on what can work for them in the area of preventing injuries in Aboriginal communities, and how some communities are managing these problems. The program is presented by Ms Karla Grant, Presenter of the Living Black program on SBS Television.

Program participants include Dr Kathleen Clapham, Senior Research Fellow, Injury Prevention and Trauma Care Division, the George Institute for International Health; Ms Angela Dowling, Coordinator Top End Women's Legal Service, Women's Outreach Unit NT; and Ms Alison Hunt, Community Worker, Alice Springs.

For further information about this program go to <http://www.rhef.com.au/news/070222/070222.html>

To order your free DVD or VHS video copy of Keep Safe (one per person or organisation only within Australia), please email us at keepsafe@rhef.com.au; or fax us on (02) 6232-5484 specifying your preferred format and providing your name, organisation, postal address, contact telephone number and email address. Note that the number of copies is limited so place your order quickly.

For information on other programs available for purchase from the Rural Health Education Foundation, go to our DVD & Video order page <http://www.rhef.com.au/order/order.html>

RACGP patient feedback fact sheet changes

With Thanks Nursing Matters April 27 2007

The RACGP Standards Liaison Committee has approved a change to the Fact Sheet on Patient Feedback to come into effect from 1 May 2007. The changes reflect the minimum number of surveys to be completed if the practice chooses to use surveys to collect patient feedback. The Standards Liaison Committee reinforces the important principle that patient feedback is acted on by the practice.

The Fact Sheet can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.racgp.org.au/standards/factsheets>

If a practice chooses to use patient surveys a minimum number of 30 surveys per FTE GP (if 3 or less) is now required:

- 30 surveys/1 FTE GP
- 60 surveys/2 FTE GPs
- 90 surveys/3 FTE GPs
- 100 surveys if more than 3 FTE GPs

The above recommended minimum number of patient surveys to be completed comes into effect for practices undertaking surveys from 1 May 2007.

This information relates to Criterion 2.1.2 on page 43 of the RACGP Standards for General Practices, 3rd Edition

Media Release

Nurse shortage addressed in the Riverina - 12 May 2007

http://www.agpn.com.au/site/index.cfm?PageMode=indiv&module=MEDIA&page_id=24772&leca=16

Events for May

29 April – 5 May: Heart Week - Nationwide - Heart Foundation, www.heartfoundation.com.au

04 May: Star Day - Nationwide - Starlight Children's Foundation Australia, www.starlight.org.au

04 May: Walk Safely to School Day - Nationwide - Pedestrian Council, www.walk.com.au

06 – 12 May: Food Allergy Awareness Week - Nationwide - Anaphylaxis Australia Inc.
www.allergyfacts.org.au

07 – 11 May: Addison's Awareness Week - Nationwide, www.addisons.org.au

12 May: International Nurses Day - Worldwide

24 May: Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - Nationwide, www.biggestmorningtea.com.au

Contact the Editor

Information in this newsletter is for the use and benefit of all members of SBOs and Divisions, so please pass it on, and recycle the whole, or parts, of this publication to your members with due acknowledgements to AGPN.

If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments on, AGPN Nursing News please contact Toni Rice on 02 62280850 or email trice@agpn.com.au