

Dear Employer

Re: National Mentoring Pilot for Nurses in General Practice

Thank you for your interest in the National Mentoring Pilot in support of the Nursing in General Practice Program. The National Mentoring Pilot is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for the period 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008.

The aim of the National Mentoring Pilot Program is to provide practice nurses with an opportunity to engage in structured mentoring relationships, across Australia, to enhance their personal and professional development, and thereby strengthen the nursing services they provide in the general practice environment, and in particular, your business. The National Mentoring Pilot Program has at its core a report: *Hanging from a String in the Wind: Development of a National Framework for Mentoring for Nurses in General Practice* (2005) which identified the benefits of mentoring for practice nurses and their employing organisations.

There are three ways in which a practice nurse can participate in the pilot program including:

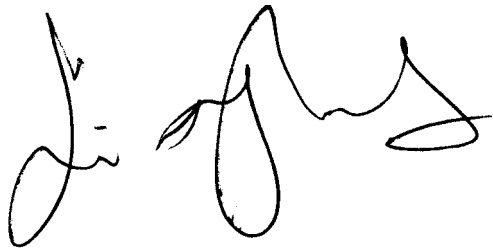
- As part of the 1:1 Formal Mentoring Program
- As part of a Mentoring Group with a Divisions Program Officer acting as the mentor
- As part of a self-directed Mentoring Circle

We have asked your practice nurse to talk with you about his/her involvement and to actively reflect upon the benefits to his/her own professional development and the benefits to your business and patients. Furthermore, we require potential mentors and mentees in the 1:1 Formal Mentoring Program to seek your support in their registration through the completion of the Employer Statement section on their registration form.

As this is a voluntary activity, we have encouraged your practice nurse to consider how and when they will be involved, and what possible needs they will have in respect to use of a telephone, email and the internet to support their relationship. As we are encouraging participants to engage with their mentoring partner at least one to two times per month, the commitment will not be onerous; however, we encourage you and your practice nurse to discuss and agree upon whether activities will be undertaken during work hours or in the practice nurse's own time. As part of the evaluation of the pilot program, we may also ask you to complete a short survey at some point during the pilot. A General Information Booklet is also available which provides further information on the Pilot Program; please ask to see a copy of this booklet if you require further information.

In summary, we look forward to the involvement of your practice nurse, yourself and your practice/organisation as part of this exciting national initiative, and to keeping you informed of the progress of the pilot and the outcomes of the evaluation.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Porritt'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Julie' and the last name 'Porritt' clearly distinguishable.

Julie Porritt
Principal Adviser Nursing in General Practice