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Headline News

National Mentoring Pilot Program

Registration Now Open for Division Practice Nurse Program
Officers and general practice nurses to be involved in a supported
national mentoring pilot.

Opportunities exist for involvement in formal 1:1 mentoring, mentoring groups and mentoring circles. To support each of the above elements, we have in place the following basic criteria for individuals to apply to be involved:

- To be a **mentor** in the **1:1 program** you need to be either a Division Program Officer OR an experienced practice nurse with at least three years experience working as a practice nurse with a desire to support and work with a mentee for the duration of the pilot program.
- To be a **mentee** in the **1:1 program** you need to be a practice nurse (either RN/Div 1 or EN/Div 2) with a desire to work with a mentor for the duration of the pilot program.
- To be a **mentor** in the **group mentoring program** you need to be a Division Program Officer.
- To be a **mentee** in the **group mentoring program** you need to be a practice nurse (either RN/Div 1 or EN/Div 2) who has less than two-years experience as a practice nurse (regardless of previous nursing experience).
- To be part of a **mentoring circle** you need to be a practice nurse (either RN/Div 1 or EN/Div 2) with at least 12-months experience as a practice nurse and a commitment to the shared 'special interest' of that mentoring circle.

Free training workshops will be provided for both mentors and mentees involved in the 1:1 mentoring program. Mentoring groups and mentoring cycle participants will be supported with an on-line tutorial and information packages. Participants in the Pilot will receive ongoing support for the duration of the study.

Following is a schedule for the Training workshops for the 1:1 program. Training will involve a 1 ½ day training program for mentors followed by a 1 ½ day training program for mentees. Participants will receive supported travel and accommodation to attend the nominated workshop in their state.

12-14 July 2007	Mentoring education workshop – Sydney (plus ACT) (Mentors: 12 July - lunch on 13 July Mentees: lunch on 13 July – 14 July)	Onsite Workshop
19-21 July 2007	Mentoring education workshop– Brisbane (Mentors: 19 July - lunch on 20 July Mentees: lunch on 20 July – 21 July)	Onsite Workshop
26-28 July 2007	Mentoring education workshop – Melbourne (plus TAS) (Mentors: 26 July - lunch on 27 July Mentees: lunch on 27 July – 28 July)	Onsite Workshop
9-11 August 2007	Mentoring education workshop 4 – Adelaide (plus NT) (Mentors: 9 August - lunch on 10 August Mentees: lunch on 10 August – 11 August)	Onsite Workshop
16-18 August 2007	Mentoring education workshop 5 – Perth (Mentors: 16 August - lunch on 17 August Mentees: lunch on 17 August – 18 August)	Onsite Workshop

Detailed information about the Pilot and registration forms is now available at <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=25158>

National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum

111 Divisions and 140 delegates have now registered for the National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum in Coffs Harbour on the 28th and 29th August. The program is currently being finalised and the updated version will be on the AGPN NiGP website shortly. Late registrations will be accepted from those Divisions that have yet to register.

Graduate Certificate in Nursing General Practice

In Semester 1 2007, 14 Divisions delivered the Graduate Certificate in Nursing with a total of 119 students. The inaugural group of students have now completed the first 3 modules through the Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice and will be starting their final course (No 4) with the University of the Sunshine Coast in Semester 2.

Divisions interested in delivering the Graduate Certificate of Nursing (General Practice) in Semester 2 are encouraged to register their interest with the National Coordinator Toni Rice on (02) 6228 0850 or trice@agpn.com.au

AGPN/SBO Nursing in General Practice Quarterly Workshop

AGPN and the SBO PN Program officers continue their work as a collaborative group to support Divisions and strengthen their NiGP programs.

The following is a snap shot of some activities of special interest from each state/territory:

QDGP reported on the progress of the 3 working parties that have been established. The working groups were established to assist divisions to work with others to address similar issues.

- The urban workgroup focussed on workforce and employment issues looking at recruiting more nurses into general practice and to improve the way they operate. They have developed a practice nurse employment models tool kit and 3 broad models of employment have been documented detailing the role for the nurse and the implications for the practice. The tool kit will be finalised by the end of June and then trialled and made available to all SBOs and divisions.
- The rural workgroup looked at education issues across rural QLD. They have developed a website which will be launched in a couple of weeks. The website provides access for PNs to specialist health professionals for advice with clinical issues and information. PNs can also access information and can post questions for response. The website will continue to develop in the next financial year.
- The provincial workgroup looked at the evaluation of educational activities. They have developed an educational kit which will assist divisional staff with guidelines to conduct educational activities including validating the impact of the education on the nurses work practices.

GPPHCNT have been developing the Telephone Education Nursing Network (TENNs), which delivers education to nurses who can not usually access it. The most recent session was on Gardasil where there were 57 separate groups dial in from every state except Tasmania. The NT has also produced an advertisement to promote International Nurses Week which was shown on 2 NT channels. The advertisement will be developed more next year with a practice nurse focus.

The Alliance NSW gave an outline on a program delivered recently by the Riverina Division. The program was an induction program for nurses who have been out of the nursing workforce for up to 5 years. A project officer was employed; the program was advertised with the initial advertisement attracting 52 responses. A selection process identified nurses who were currently not working in nursing. The nurses then attended a 1 week up-skilling process. These nurses will form a pool of nurses ready to work in general practice. General practices were also made aware of the program. Nurses who did not attend the first program are on a waiting list for the next workshop intake. The program is to be further refined and evaluated for national applicability.

The 3 Tasmanian divisions NiGP staff has been working together to roll out state initiatives such as the development of a Tasmanian FPA course for PNs to undertake Pap smears which was not previously available. This course has now been accredited with the RCNA.

GPDV have developed a partnership with the Nurses Board of Victoria who has been funded to do a road trip throughout Victoria to talk to practice nurses on professional issues. The road show will focus

on scope of practice for practice nurses and change of legislation for Div 1 and Div 2 nurses. There is a plan to develop more clinical programs such as suturing and plastering for nurses in general practice.

ACT reported on the increase in the numbers of practice nurses in the ACT. The number has doubled in the last year to over 100 nurses. The ACT has an effective support network available for these nurses.

The Western Australian General Practice Network has been working to establish practice nurse data bases in each division. All 14 WA divisions now integrate nursing in general practice across division activity and each division now has a PN network.

Other News

RCNA 5th General Practice Nurse Conference

Maximising Nursing's Contribution to Primary Health Care

11 - 13 October 2007

Wrest Point, Hobart TAS

Call for Abstracts Brochure now available at http://www.rcna.org.au/content/rcna_gpn_cfa_.pdf Please note closing date for abstracts has been extended until Friday 22nd June.

AGPN will once again this year be assisting RCNA to identify practice nurses would be interested in presenting in the Stories from the Frontline Session. This session provides an opportunity for first time presenters to give a short presentation of around 10 minutes sharing their experience of practice nursing. This session has been rated very highly by delegates at previous Conferences. To register your interest or seek further information please contact Toni Rice Nurse Program Officer at trice@agpn.com.au Please note that financial support to cover travel expenses and registration costs is available through the Divisions Network NiGP Program for presenters in the Stories from the Frontline session.

CareSearch expands to meet the needs of the whole palliative care community

With thanks Natasha Schembri

Finding relevant and high quality information can be frustrating for anybody. But when a person has a life limiting illness the need for reliable and easily accessible information becomes even more important.

The CareSearch website is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. Originally the focus was on up to date, quality assured evidence based information for the clinical community. On March 26th, 2007 new pages specifically for General Practitioners and Patients, Carers, Families and Friends were launched along with new PubMed searches.

[Patients, Carers, Families and Friends](#)

The new Patient, Carers, Families and Friends pages recognise that Palliative care will affect all of us at some stage in our lives whether as a patient, carer, family member, neighbour or friend yet many in the community do not have a clear understanding of what palliative care means.

There are pages specific to patients providing information on varied palliative care topics such as living with illness, having difficult conversations and feelings and emotions. There are also resources directed specifically towards carers that help with practical caring matters and with understanding what is happening. For families and friends there is information on how to help and what to say.

The pages are not intended to replace the care or advice of health professionals. They provide a set of resources that may help individuals learn more and access materials that could help them manage better. The Patient and carer pages are found at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Patientsandcarers/tabid/493/Default.aspx>

General Practitioner Pages

Finding high quality, relevant information is not just an issue for those affected by palliative care but also for those providing palliative care such as General Practitioners.

GPs have an important role in providing palliative care. Not every dying person requires the involvement of a specialist palliative care service and many people with an advanced progressive illness wish to spend their final days at home. Supporting GPs in providing palliative care benefits not only GPs but their patients and carers and the community.

The General Practitioner pages have been designed specifically to provide GPs with valuable resources that may assist in providing the best possible care and information for their patients. The GPs pages can be found at: <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Patientcare/GPs/tabid/487/Default.aspx>

Pub Med Searches

Search strategies are a way of identifying relevant articles within electronic literature databases. CareSearch provides a set of specifically written searches for use within PubMed on topics of palliative care interest such as dyspnoea or fatigue. You can now run these searches using a validated palliative care filter. This means that articles not only deal with the specific clinical topics such as bereavement but are further restricted to that topic in a palliative care context. You can find these searches at: <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Findingevidence/Searchstrategies/Palliativecaresearches/tabid/458/Default.aspx>

We encourage you to visit the CareSearch website and become involved by providing us with your feedback. You can do this by: Visiting www.caresearch.com.au or Emailing caresearch@rgh.sa.gov.au

HMR Brochures in Other Languages

With Thanks Alliance of NSW Divisions 10 minute Update Issue no 116 May 2007

HMR brochures are now available electronically from the Pharmacy Guild website in several languages: <http://www.guild.org.au/mmr/content.asp?id=428>

- Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Dutch

- English, German, Greek, Hungarian.
- Indonesian, Italian, Khmer ,Korean
- Macedonian, Maltese, Polish, Russian
- Serbian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese

Residents of retirement villages, private aged care facilities and homes for intellectually disabled patients are eligible for a HMR, Residents of Commonwealth funded aged care homes for an RMMR instead.

Australian Diabetes Educators Association Guidelines

The Australian Diabetes Educators Association have available a series of Sick Day Guidelines available. The guidelines apply to the home management of people with diabetes on "sick days". The "sick days" refer to periods of minor recurrent illness that require changes to the person's usual self management practices.

These guidelines and other publications produced by the Australian diabetes Educators association can be found at <http://www.adea.com.au/public/content/ViewCategory.aspx?id=39>

Articles of interest

With thanks PHCRIS Ebulletin May 10 2007

The role of practice nurses in coordinated care of people with chronic and complex conditions

http://www.aushealthreview.com.au/publications/articles/issues/ahr_31_2_0507/ahr_31_2_231.asp

With thanks Alliance of NSW Nursing Matters Issue 22, June 2007

Practice Nurses Can Do More – New Research Shows. Available from:

http://www.aushealthcare.com.au/news/news_details.asp?nid=8838

Events for June

01 – 08 June: Kidney Awareness Week - Nationwide - Kidney Health Australia, www.kidney.org.au

03 – 09 June: Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week - Nationwide - Multiple Sclerosis Australia, www.msaustralia.org.au

25 June– 1 July: Macular Degeneration Awareness Week - Nationwide - Macular Degeneration Foundation, www.maculardegeneration.com.au

04 – 08 June: Bowel Cancer Awareness Week - Nationwide - Bowel Cancer & Digestive Research Institute Australia www.bowelcanceraustralia.com

11 June: National Amputee Awareness Day - Nationwide - Limbs 4 Life Inc. www.limbs4life.com

11 – 17 June: International Men's Health Week - Worldwide - Men's Health Information & Resource Centre, www.menshealthweekaustralia.org

12 June: National Premmie Day - Nationwide - National Premmie Foundation, www.prembaby.org.au

14 June: World Blood Donor Day - Worldwide - Australian Red Cross, www.wbdd.org

18 – 22 June: Drug Action Week - Nationwide - Alcohol & Other Drugs Council of Australia, www.drugactionweek.org.au

29 June: Crazy Hair Day - Nationwide - Cystic Fibrosis Australia, www.cysticfibrosis.org.au

29 June: Red Nose Day - Nationwide - Sudden Infant Death Syndrome & Kids Australia, www.rednoseday.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