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Headline News

National Mentoring Pilot for Nurses in General Practice

There has been great interest and excitement generated by the national mentoring pilot. We have now completed mentee and mentor training workshops in Sydney, and mentor training in Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth involving approximately 43 mentors and 9 mentees. We have received very positive feedback from participants who have greatly appreciated the enthusiasm and knowledge of our facilitator Gilly Johnson, Director of the Australian Mentor Centre.

Twelve divisions involving around 80 practice nurse mentees have registered for the mentoring groups to date, and we plan to provide face to face training for these groups in September and October. Seven mentoring circles have registered in the Pilot so far, involving 35 practice nurses. Training for the circle participants will also be provided over the next two-three months.

Matching of mentors and mentees for the formal 1:1 mentoring partnerships will commence in the next few weeks and continue until early November as new participants register for the program. AGPN has sought a six month extension for the Pilot until October 2008, in order to ensure that the partnerships have at least 10 months to develop over the course of the program.

If you haven't registered as yet for this exciting program, then it's not too late. We plan to conduct further training programs over the next few months for mentees and mentors interested in group, cycle or 1:1 mentoring. For a copy of the information booklet or to register your interest visit our website at [National Mentoring Pilot Program for Nursing in General Practice](http://www.agpn.com.au) or call 1800 100 848.

Support for nurses in regional and rural areas to be points of referral for domestic violence

In the 2005-06 Federal Budget \$2.6 million was set aside as part of the Women's Safety Agenda to provide training for general practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers (AHWs) in rural and regional areas, to be points of referral for people experiencing domestic violence. During the last twelve months a number of focus groups were undertaken involving practice nurses, AHWs and GPs seeking their feedback on the education and training needs to support this initiative.

The training program for this initiative is being coordinated by the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) and the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). Lifeline Australia has been engaged to develop and deliver the training.

Arrangements are being made to pilot the training with the assistance of two divisions of general practice in the next few months. E-learning training will also be made available. It is anticipated that the final training program will be ready for roll out towards the end of this year.

AGPN is working with FaCSIA, DoHA and Lifeline to facilitate the pilot sites, and will also assist the rollout of the training once available. Further information will be provided as this initiative progresses.

AGPN PN Workforce Survey

AGPN has been requested by DoHA to repeat the National Practice Nurse Workforce Survey in 2007.

The 2007 Survey has been designed to be a web based resource, and will be provided electronically. Hard copies will be available for practices with limited access to computers. The content of the survey remains consistent with previous surveys to allow comparisons to previous data.

AGPN will be collecting the data with the assistance of the divisions' network. Each division will be sent an instruction letter which includes the survey link, to forward on to the practices during the last week of August. Responses are to be submitted from divisions, practice managers and practice nurses by the 28th September 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.

Once the survey has been completed and the data analysed, each division will receive an individual summary report. The AGPN national report will be available on the AGPN website towards the end of 2007. Individual practices and nurses will not be identified in any of the survey results. All data received will be treated in confidence.

For further information on the survey contact Toni Rice, Nurse Program Officer on (02) 62280850

Stories from the Frontline

AGPN are assisting RCNA in coordinating practice nurses who would be interested in presenting in the Stories from the Frontline Session at the RCNA 5th General Practice Nurse Conference in Hobart in October.

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 RCNA Practice Nurse Conferences.

To register your interest or seek further information please contact Toni Rice Nurse Program Officer at trice@agpn.com.au or (02) 62280850. Please note that presenters in the Stories from the Frontline session will receive financial support to cover travel expenses and registration costs are available through the Divisions Network NiGP Program.

Expressions of Interest to present Stories from the Frontline close on Monday 3rd September

AGPN/ UNEP Leadership Program

The second workshop for the 2007 Leadership Program was recently held in Melbourne.

Fifteen students are currently enrolled in the program. Feedback from the students indicates they are all enjoying the program and are gaining new skills. The group have been divided into three working groups, each working on a different project. The students have all bonded and the workgroups have overcome challenges including running their workgroups around work commitments, study and time zones between states.

Information on the 2008 intake of the General Practice Leadership Program is now available. In 2008 the program will be delivered in two delivery methods:

- a Blended Workshop and Distance Education or
- Blended Distance and Online

Information on the Leadership program can be found at <http://www.unepartnerships.edu.au/agpnNurseLead/>

Scholarships to undertake the Leadership program will be administered through the APNA Education and Training Scholarships.

News

APNA Education and Training Scholarships

The latest round of education and training scholarships for practice nurses has just been released. APNA will be administering these scholarships, which include for the first time scholarships for post graduate study. This would include programs such as the AGPN/UNEP Practice Nurse Leadership

Program and the Sunshine Coast Graduate Certificate in Nursing General Practice. Applications close 28th September 2007.

Information regarding the scholarships and application forms are available at:

[Australian Practice Nurses Association](#)

RCNA 5th General Practice Nurse Conference

The RCNA General Practice Nurse Conference 2007 *Maximising Nursing's Contribution to Primary Health Care* will be held from 11 – 13 October 2007 at Wrest Point Hobart TAS.

The conference themes will be;

Nursing Workforce in General Practice

Chronic Disease Management

Stories from the Frontline

Professional issues

Research and Projects

Keynote presentations will be Sue Pullon and Professor Sandra Dunn FRCNA

The preliminary program and registration forms are now available from the following link

<http://customers.ilisys.com.au/rcnao/UserFiles/GPN%20Prelim%20FINAL.PDF>

Royal College of Nursing Scholarships

Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) is seeking applications for the following scholarships, awards and grants under the National Research and Scholarship Fund:

• Annie M Sage Memorial Scholarship	\$10,000
• Joyce Wickham Memorial Scholarship	\$5,000
• Myrtle Ivy Quicke Memorial Scholarship	\$5,000
• Florence Nightingale	\$10,000
• Bequest Fund for Research (VIC only)	\$10,000
• Centaur Nurses Memorial Education Trust (VIC only)	\$5,000
• Margaret Y Winning (QLD only)	\$10,000
• NSW Nurses Research Grant (NSW only)	\$10,000

Applicants must be registered nurses who are also Members or Fellows of RCNA.

The funding is intended to assist registered nurses to undertake tertiary and/or postgraduate education and training, and research activities.

AGPN acknowledges the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

As the criterion varies, intending applicants are advised to download copies of the application and guidelines forms from <http://www.rcna.org.au>. For further information please call the free call number 1800 061 660 or email scholarships@rcna.org.au.

Applications close Friday 12 October 2007.

2007 National Conference on Incontinence Scholarships

Applications are invited for eight SCHOLARSHIPS to attend the 2007 National Conference on Incontinence. This annual "main event" for continence health professionals will take place this year at The Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort and Spa on the Gold Coast, Queensland, from 31 October to 3 November. Continence nurse advisors, continence physiotherapists, GPs, practice nurses and Div 1 and 2 nurses working in residential aged care are invited to apply for the 8 Australian Government scholarships. Applications for the scholarships close 7 September 2007.

For further information and application forms visit www.continence.org.au

New Guidelines and resources from the National Heart Foundation of Australia

The Heart Foundation and Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand have recently released updates of two major guidelines – 'Reducing Risk in Heart Disease : guidelines for the prevention of cardiovascular events in people with coronary heart disease' and ' Guidelines for the prevention, detection and management of chronic heart failure in Australia'

Hard copies of the full chronic heart failure guidelines, along with additional copies of all resources are available from Heartline by calling 1300 36 27 87. These resources can also be downloaded from the Heart Foundation website www.heartfoundation.com.au

Practice Nurses as accredited pap screen providers

With thanks GPDV Primary Care Programs Update August 2007

GPDV funding has enabled practice nurses to undertake training to become accredited pap screen providers. A recent report by the Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry* includes data shows a significant increase in the number of pap tests being collected by nurses, with results continuing to indicate tests are performed to high quality.

The number of Pap tests collected by nurses has more than doubled over the past 10 years, with 16,035 recorded in 2006, compared with 7,155 in 1997. Of those collected by nurses in 2006, 80.3% were reported as including an endocervical component compared with 77.2% of all Pap tests taken.

The report also indicates that nurses are reaching more older women. Figures show the proportion of Pap tests collected by nurses for 60 to 69 year old women sits at 15.2%, compared with 9.7% for all Pap tests taken.

Further key statistics published in the report:

- In 2006, a total of 16,035 Pap tests were collected by nurses, from a total of 572,757 Pap tests taken by all Pap test providers. This figure represents 2.8% of all Pap tests taken in Victoria.

AGPN acknowledges the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

- By comparison, in 1997, nurses collected 7,155 Pap test (so between 1997 and 2006, the number taken by nurses has more than doubled).
- Of Pap tests collected by nurses in 2006, 80.3% were reported as including an endocervical component, compared with 77.2% for all Pap tests taken.
- Compared with all Victorian Pap test providers, nurses collected a higher proportion of Pap tests from women whose screening interval had exceeded two years.
- Nurses conduct Pap tests in a variety of settings, with the majority of tests in 2006 conducted in General Practice or a community health setting.

*** Evaluation Of Pap Tests Collected By Nurses In Victoria During 2006, prepared by the Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry, March 2007**

Nurses Guide for Tax

With thanks RCNA eBulletin Volume 2 Issue 13 27th July 2007

As it is Tax season the Australian Tax Office has produced a guide to help nurses complete their tax return. The guide covers income you need to include and deductions you can claim.

To view the guide please visit: http://www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads/NAT2319_07.pdf

Nurses “one-stop shop” for Quality Use of Medicines

With thanks RCNA eBulletin Volume 2 Issue 13 27th July 2007

It has never been easier for nurses to keep informed about Quality Use of Medicines, thanks to the new National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) ‘one-stop shop’ campaign.

NPS is aiming to reach a large number of nursing professionals with the full range of its independent, evidence-based information and resources by providing a click-through icon on some favoured websites for nurses. These include eMIMS, Nursing Review online and popular employment sites as well as NPS’ own website (www.nps.org.au)

Another new initiative at NPS is that nurses can now obtain RCNA CNE (Continuing Nurse Education) points for participating in educational activities. There are activities specially for general practice nurses, which are organised through NPS Facilitators working with Divisions of General Practice across Australia. These activities include educational visits, small group case studies and interactive workshops.

NPS produces a range of high quality publications for health professionals. These cover topics such as independent reviews about drugs and their role in treatment, helpful information on new medicines, revised PBS listings plus succinct bulletins on varying clinical themes ranging from analgesic use to ulcer management.

Nurses have also identified the usefulness of NPS consumer resources including *Medicines Talk*, a quarterly newsletter written by consumers, for consumers. For more information go to www.nps.org.au

Monash University Practice Nurse Work Survey -Call for participants

You can still take part in this important national study. If you have experienced difficulties trying to contact us recently, we sincerely apologise. Our recent office relocation caused significant disruption to our phone and fax systems. We're ready to hear from you now!

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. We are looking at Practice Nurses' clinical duties and their other, non-clinical activities.

We 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

Articles of Interest

Nurses Working Smarter

Medical Observer -17th August 2007 pages 35-36

Events for August/September

05 – 11 August: Contenance Awareness Week - Nationwide www.contenance.org.au

24 August: Daffodil Day - Nationwide - The Cancer Council Australia www.daffodilday.com.au

26 August – 1 September: Grief Awareness Week - Nationwide - National Association of Loss and Grief Victoria, <http://www.nalagvic.org.au/gw-griefweek.htm>

01 – 30 September: Step for Starlight - Nationwide - Starlight Children's Foundation Australia, www.starlight.org.au

01 – 30 September: Annual Doorknock Appeal - Nationwide www.heartfoundation.com.au

01 – 07 September: National Asthma Week - Nationwide - Asthma Foundation of Australia, www.asthmaaustralia.org.au

02 – 08 September: National Child Protection Week - Nationwide - National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, www.napcan.org.au

10 September: National Gynaecological Awareness Day - Nationwide - www.gain.org.au

14 September: Loud Shirt Day - WA/QLD/VIC/SA/TAS - Shepherd Centre, www.loudshirtday.com.au

17 – 23 September: National Stroke Week, www.strokefoundation.com.au

17 September – 17 October: Dementia Awareness Month - Nationwide - Alzheimer's Australia, www.alzheimers.org.au

30 September: World Retina Day, Worldwide, Vision 2020 Australia, www.vision2020australia.org.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