



Australian Divisions of General Practice

e-newsletter of the Nursing in General Practice Program

# Nursing News

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## HEADLINE NEWS

### National Update

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## OTHER NEWS

### National Resource for Nursing in General Practice Update

ADGP in conjunction with the Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA) and the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF), with funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, will be developing a national Resource for Nursing in General Practice.

The National Resource will be designed to assist in the recruitment and orientation of nurses into the general practice setting. It will be applicable to a national audience and will provide information and resources for an employer, all members of the general practice team, Divisions of General Practice and nurses new to general practice.

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Representatives for the project steering group were sought from: the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC), the Australian Medical Association (AMA), the Royal College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA), the Australian Association of Practice Managers (AAPM), the Melbourne Division of General Practice, the Illawarra Division of General Practice, a Nursing in General Practice State Based Officer Representative from South Australia and a representative from Department of Health and Ageing. The steering committee met in the last week of July to discuss the development of the National Resource.

A draft resource is expected to be available on-line for comment in early September.

Validation of the resource will be undertaken in a number of ways including:

- through focus groups with practice nurses
- through feedback from Divisions, General Practices and other key stakeholders.
- a variety of general practices including those who are considering employing a Practice Nurse and that have recently employed a Practice Nurse. Practices will be from both a rural and urban settings. Further information on the recruitment of practices for the validation process will be available in the future.

The official launch of the resource will be at the ADGP Forum in November.

### **Nursing in General Practice (NiGP) Program Update**

As part of our national leadership and coordination role for the NiGP Program ADGP, with input from SBOs, is working on a range of projects to enhance Division capacity to support practice nurses. Following is an overview of some of the key projects currently underway.

### **National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum**

There has been an excellent response from Divisions to attend the national forum, which is being held in Brisbane on 29th - 30th August. At this stage over 130 delegates are registered to attend with representation from 103 Divisions.

We believe the forum will provide an excellent opportunity for Divisions to share their skills and experience of supporting practice nurses and provide opportunities for learning and skill development.

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Registrations for the forum have closed, however if you wish to submit a late application, registration details are still available on the ADGP website at National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum

### **Promotional Material**

Work is underway to develop a range of promotional material for nursing in general practice that will be made available to Divisions. This will include a wall poster and a series of pamphlets providing information for consumers, general practices and nurses not currently working in general practice including nursing students.

We are planning to have this material available for Divisions to review at the national forum in August.

### **Practice Nurse Leadership Program**

ADGP is working with the University of New England Partnerships (UNE) to develop a leadership program for practice nurses. The key aim of the program is to provide potential practice nurse leaders with the skills and confidence to become involved in planning and decision making functions in the development and delivery of primary care services.

ADGP recognises practice nurses as core members of general practice teams and as integral to improving access to high quality primary care services. As such, it is important for practice nurses to have input into health planning activities.

It is planned to commence the program in 2007. The program will be delivered by distance study over a ten-month period. Successful completion would result in the award of a nationally accredited Diploma of Business that would gain credit into the UNE/ADGP Executive Leadership and Management Program or other advanced programs.

The program will be launched at the national forum with further details provided over the coming months.

### **ADGP/SBO NiGP Quarterly Workshop**

The Principal Advisor for Nursing in General Practice and SBO Practice Nurse Program Officers, meet recently in Canberra for a two day workshop to discuss program performance and direction, share information and identify opportunities for collaboration. Representatives from DoHA joined the group on day two of the workshop.

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

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ACT has been working on a program in conjunction with ACT Health for provision of immunisation training to both GPs and Nurses. The nurse programs will include Practice Nurses, Maternal and Child Health Nurses, Aboriginal Community Controlled staff and all other nurses who deliver immunisation to the community.

Victoria have introduced a training calendar which aims to maximise the learning opportunities for all practice nurses in Victoria. The calendar is available on the GDPV website under the Nursing in General Practice section. Most of the courses are Melbourne based but Divisions are also invited to run local programs with GDPV funding the speaker costs.

Northern Territory is currently investigating the potential of undergraduate nursing placements in general practice. Undergraduate nursing placements occurred in 2005 and feedback regarding this program is currently being analysed.

Western Australia has been working on a project with the Nurses Board of Western Australia called "Evaluation of the Clinical Education of Nursing Students within the General Practice Setting." The main objective is to explore the issues involved for both health professionals and nursing student placements within the general practice settings in metropolitan, rural and aboriginal health services.

Queensland provided a project update on the Nurse Mentoring Program. The project evolved from the Urban Division Employment Group to address the issue of recruitment and retention. Conclusions showed the program to be useful and there is a definite need for the program.

Tasmania reported on a project to build the capacity of a Tasmanian DGP to increase the uptake of Practice Nurses in small PIP eligible practices. The project aims to access the services of an experienced general practice nurse who in conjunction with the division Practice Nurse Program Officer will work with these practices using a range of strategies.

South Australia reported on the launch of an educational module for nurses, developed in conjunction with SA Divisions of General Practice, National Heart Foundation (SA Division) and the Division of General Practice Adelaide University. The module is to be evaluated over the next 6 months and considered for national application.

New South Wales reported on the establishment of regional Division Project Officer positions in rural/remote areas and areas of poor uptake of the PN incentive. In the last 3 months agreements have been made with these Divisions to work with practices to increase uptake of Practice Nurses, and to provide educational events over the next 12 months to meet the needs of local nurses.

### **New Medicare Item**

The Commonwealth Government will introduce a new Medicare item for practice nurses, nurse practitioners and registered Aboriginal health workers to provide ongoing support for patients with chronic disease, for and on behalf of, general practitioners.

The Department is planning to introduce this item from 1st May 2007. Further information will be provided as discussions are held around the development of the item.

ADGP has also been working with DoHA and other key stakeholders to provide input into the guidelines and development of other new MBS items relevant to practice nursing which are due for release in November 2006 including:

- the over 45 health checks,
- extension of the existing practice nurse Pap Smear item to include preventative health checks for women, and
- a new item to allow a nurse, midwife or accredited aboriginal health worker to undertake antenatal checks on behalf of a GP or obstetrician, RRMA's 3-7.

Further details on these items will be provided as it becomes available.

### **2006 Australian Government Practice Nurse Scholarship Scheme**

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing is providing funding for a third round of training/education scholarships for Practice Nurses.

In addition to scholarships for immunisation, wound management and pap smear training offered in previous rounds, the scheme has been broadened to include scholarships for other areas including chronic disease management.

All registered and enrolled nurses currently working in general practice are eligible to apply.

Applications open on Tuesday 1 August and close on Friday 15 September 2006.

The scholarship scheme will be administered by the Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA) in conjunction with ADGP.

Further information can be found at [www.apna.asn.au](http://www.apna.asn.au)

## EDUCATION UPDATES

### RCNA National General Practice Nurse Conference

The 4<sup>th</sup> General Practice Nurse Conference will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> October at the Raddisson Resort, Gold Coast.

Abstracts are now closed. An exciting program has been planned including Stories from the Frontline, a popular segment from the 2005 conference.

Registration details will be available soon at [Royal College of Nursing](#)

### The Rural Health Educational Foundation Professional Development Programs

The Rural Health Education Foundation produces and broadcasts continuing professional development, medical education and information programs for health professionals to remote and isolated rural communities.

The Foundations programs are endorsed by the Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) and have associated Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) points.

Examples of programs relevant to nurses include a four-part series on continence issues, a five part series on dementia, a program on nursing in general practice, Aboriginal maternal and infant care, Psychiatric Emergencies and a series on diabetes.

Notices of programs are available on the foundations website. [www.rhef.com.au](http://www.rhef.com.au) . Resources are also available for viewing on DVD and VHS video.

### Getting More Out of Conferences

The Primary Health Care Research and Information Service have produced a fact sheet about getting more out of conferences.

[www.phcris.org.au/publications/pdfs/Fsheet06\\_Conferences.pdf](http://www.phcris.org.au/publications/pdfs/Fsheet06_Conferences.pdf)

## The Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN) 8<sup>th</sup> National Conference and Annual General Meeting

The conference will be held in Tasmania on the 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

The conference theme: Back to the Future-The future is Ours!

Further information and registration forms can be found on the website at <http://www.indiginet.com.au/catsin>

## Continuing Professional Educational Scheme for Rural and Remote Nurses

The scheme is available for both registered and enrolled nurses to undertake postgraduate Continuing Professional Education (CPE) courses and for attendance at conferences held within Australia (as presenters or delegates).

The second round of this scheme will open on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

Further information about the scholarship can be obtained by contacting Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA). [Email-scholarships@rcna.org.au](mailto:Email-scholarships@rcna.org.au) or Free call Number 1800 11 72 62

## USEFUL INFORMATION FROM BEYOND THE NETWORK

### Revised Position Statements

*With thanks from RCNA eBulletin, Volume 1, Issue 5, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006*

RCNA encourages all members to visit the Policy section of our website and download two revised position statements:

Smoking and health

Management of Nursing and Midwifery Service

RNCA will continue to revise other position statements throughout the year

## The 10 tips for Safer Health Care

*With thanks 10 minute update June 2006*

The 10 Tips for Safer Health Care: what everyone needs to know ('10 Tips') material has been developed by the Australian Council for Safety and Quality Health Care (ACSQHC) and provided to the RACGP to promote on their behalf.

The "10 Tips" material assists people to become more actively involved in their own health care. It explains why things can go wrong, and how patients can work with their GPs to get the best possible care. This material:

- Gives '10 Tips' for improving health care, including questions patients might ask their GP
- Outlines what patients can expect from their GP
- Lists some sources of information for finding out more about their condition and how to manage their medicines
- Explains what patients can do if they have concerns about their health care
- Is available in 23 community languages.

On request, the RACGP provides one '10 tips' poster free of charge to every general practice in Australia where a member of the RACGP is employed. Additional copies or non members can purchase copies from the RACGP.

For more information on the '10 tips' material, visit the '10 tips' website at: [www.racgp.org.au/10tips](http://www.racgp.org.au/10tips).

## National Relay Service

The National Relay Service (NRS) is a 24 hour, 7 day a week, telephone relay service that enables Australians who are deaf or who have a hearing and/or speech impairment to communicate with anyone who uses a standard telephone and vice versa. Calls within Australia are relayed at no extra cost.

For further information contact the NRS Customer Service, open during business hours Monday to Friday (AEST). Voice 1800 555 660      TTY 1800 555 630      Fax 1800 555 690

Web [www.aceinfo.net.au/Services/NRS/index.html](http://www.aceinfo.net.au/Services/NRS/index.html)

## Management of Drug Use during Pregnancy, Birth and the Early Development Years of the Newborn

*With thanks from RCNA eBulletin Volume 1, Issue 3, 2nd June 2006*

The 'National Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Drug Use during Pregnancy, Birth and the Early Development Years of the Newborn' was endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005.

These nationally agreed clinical guidelines are intended to support a range of health care workers who care for women with drug and alcohol use issues, and their infants and families. They have been developed through a process based on evidence reviews and expert consensus. The drugs covered include: opioids, alcohol, tobacco. Cannabis, amphetamines, cocaine, benzodiazepines and inhalants. RCNA had representation on the working group for this important document.

Other topics covered are: breastfeeding, vertical transmission of blood-borne viruses, psychosocial aspects, obstetric implications, pain management in labour and early childhood development. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues are also addressed.

A link to the National Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Drug Use in Pregnancy, Birth and the Early Developmental Years of the Newborn can be found at

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2006/pdf/ncg\\_druguse.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2006/pdf/ncg_druguse.pdf)

## Palliative Care Australia

*With thanks from 10 Minute Update Issue 92, June 2006*

Palliative Care Australia has launched a new website which provides information to people living with life limiting illness and their carers and co-workers

[www.livingcaringworking.com](http://www.livingcaringworking.com)

## Palliative Care Australia

*With thanks from RCNA e-Bulletin Volume 1, Issue 4, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006*

Palliative Care Australia, the national peak body representing the interests of palliative care service providers across Australia and internationally, have developed the Palliative Care Quality Resource Guide.

This Guide has been developed to assist health care services, including service managers and clinicians/practitioners, as well as policy staff, to utilise the National Palliative Care Standards and support improved clinical and service quality in the delivery of end of life care.

The Guide contains a range of reference materials and practical tools which can be customized to meet the needs of specific services or communities and enable quality activities to be locally based. The Guide provides:

- The health Care sector with information about improving quality of care;
- Tools to measure, evaluate and review quality activities; and
- Advice on reporting the findings of any review.

The Guide aims to support the implementation of the National Standards of Palliative Care, in primary and specialists palliative care services. Further information about the Palliative Care Quality Resource Guide contact Palliative Care Australia on (02) 6232 4433.

## Events for August

- 4<sup>th</sup> August: **Jeans for Jeans Day**  
Visit [www.jeans4genes.com.au](http://www.jeans4genes.com.au) for further information.
- 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August: **Continenence Awareness Week**  
The Continenence Foundation of Australia website [www.continenence.org.au](http://www.continenence.org.au) has information, a Helpline and resources such as booklets, brochures and videos to assist clients and health professionals to manage continence issues
- 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August **National Healthy Bones Week**  
National Healthy Bones week has been a joint initiative between Dairy Australia and Osteoporosis Australia for the past 12 years.  
This year, National Healthy Bones Week highlights the release of the new Australian Government guidelines recommending an increase in the daily calcium intake for all Australians over the age of nine years.  
Visit [www.healthybones.com.au](http://www.healthybones.com.au) for further information.
- 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August: **Cerebral Palsy Week**  
Visit [www.cpaustralia.com.au](http://www.cpaustralia.com.au) for links to events in your state
- 20<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August: **Hearing Awareness Week**  
Visit [www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au](http://www.hearingawarenessweek.org.au) for events and information
- 25<sup>th</sup> August **Daffodil Day**  
Cancer affects nearly one in three Australians. Daffodil day is the Cancer Councils National event to support those affected by cancer.  
Further information visit [www.daffodilday.com.au](http://www.daffodilday.com.au) or [www.cancer.org.au](http://www.cancer.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 acknowledgement to ADGP.

If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments on, ADGP News please contact Toni Rice on 02 6228 0850 or e-mail [trice@adgp.com.au](mailto:trice@adgp.com.au)

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