



Australian Divisions of General Practice

e-newsletter of the Nursing in General Practice Program

Nursing News

Volume 1 Number 3

September 2006

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HEADLINE NEWS

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OTHER NEWS

Nursing in General Practice – National Divisions Forum

ADGP recently hosted a very successful national forum for Nursing in General Practice, funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. 107 divisions were represented at the Forum with over 140 delegates attending.

The forum provided a crucial opportunity for divisions to showcase their work in supporting practice nurses, share their experience and to strengthen networks with other Divisions.

Key messages from the forum confirm the role of nurses as pivotal members of general practice teams and the important role that divisions play supporting local practices to employ nurses and in providing support and education and training opportunities for practice nurses.

A summary of the key points from the sessions, copies of the PowerPoint presentations and a report of the feedback will be posted in the near future to the ADGP website.

Australian General Practice Nurse Study

ADGP is part of a collaborative research team that is currently undertaking the Australian General Practice Nursing Study, which aims to examine the role of nurses in general practice and to identify ways of expanding or changing these roles to improve primary health care delivery. The research is conducted by a team with members from the Australian Divisions of General Practice, the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne and Manchester University in the United Kingdom.

Phase Two of the Study involves seven case studies exploring ways of developing further the roles and activities of practice nurses. This builds on the first phase, which mapped the activities and roles of nurses in 25 general practices.

The aims of this project are:

- To institute specific small, scale change management projects in seven general practices in different settings addressing the activities and roles of the practice nurse.
- To assess the effectiveness of each change project in meeting the specific aims articulated by that practice team
- To evaluate the role of the practice nurse in the change management process

The change process differs somewhat from other division projects, in that the practices will be involved in designing the change management process.

We are seeking Divisions who are interested in assisting with recruitment of practices for this phase of the project, and also in the possibility of providing facilitation and ongoing support to a participating practice, should one from their Division be chosen. The exact nature of the support will depend on the change requirements of the practice. We will support Divisions to undertake training in the methods of the project through attendance at an introductory workshop in late October 2006.

We will shortly be calling for expressions of interest through Divisions of practices interested in participating in the study. Seven practices will be selected by the research team from a group nominated by Divisions in each State and Territory.

General Practice Nurse Leadership Program

As advised in the August edition of the Nursing News, 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.

The program was launched last week at the Divisions National Forum. ADGP is currently in discussion with the Department of Health and Ageing to be able to offer some scholarship support for entrants into the program due to commence in early 2007. Further information regarding this will be made available in the near future.

National Resource for Nursing in General Practice

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, are 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.

A draft resource will be available on the ADGP website for comment in mid September. There will be provision on-line for feedback and comments.

Validation will occur during October and will be undertaken in a number of ways including:

- through focus groups with practice nurses
- online feedback from Divisions, General Practices and other key stakeholders.
- with 6-8 general practices including those who are considering employing a Practice Nurse and that have recently employed a Practice Nurse.

The National Resource is divided into 5 sections;

- for all stakeholders,
 - for the employer
 - for the nurse
 - for the general practice team
- and for Divisions of General Practice.

What will validation involve?

-participating practices and their Division will be sent a copy of the draft Resource. Participants will be required to review the section/s of the resource relevant to them.

-a member of the project team will arrange a site visit to the division and practice to conduct a feedback interview.

Ideally at the practice we would like to interview the employing GP, the practice manager and possibly a practice nurse who has just been recently employed. The interview will take approximately 2 hours. The interview can occur simultaneously with all team members or on an individual basis.

An honorarium of \$200 will be paid for each participating practice and Division.

Feedback will be provided to each practice and Division involved with the validation process.

To register interests for the validation of the National Resource contact Toni Rice on trice@adgp.com.au by the 22nd September 2006.

Practices selected to participate in the validation process will be notified by the 29th September 2006.

EDUCATION UPDATES

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 | \$10,000 |
| • 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 |

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.

As the criteria vary, 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 22 September 2006

The Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme

With Thanks from National Health Alliance E-Forum

The Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship Scheme are now open for application. .Qualified, practicing rural and remote allied health professionals are able to apply for scholarship funding to support them to undertake a continuing professional activity such as:

- attendance at a conference
- short courses
- individual clinical placements and
- formal postgraduate qualifications.

The application package including application form and scholarship guidelines can be downloaded from the SARRAH website <http://www.sarrah.org.au/Scholarship/PostGraduate.asp>

Online applications are encouraged. Applications close on the 15th September 2006.

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council

Are you an RN (Div 1), an EN (Div 2), a Midwife, or a Nurse practitioner?

Yes?

Then you need a copy of the :

- National Competency Standards
- Code of Professional Conduct
- Code of Ethics

To obtain these and other ANMC publications, as well as keeping up to date on the work of ANMC contact:
(02) 62577960 anmc@anmc.org.au

MDAV SMaETE Programme workshop

The Medical Defence Association of Victoria Ltd is conducting a workshop via Videoconference on Informed Consent for Practice Nurses on Monday 11th September 2006

This workshop will explain the issues behind the provision of information to patients' the informed consent process and the role practice nurses should, or should not, play in the process.

Practice Nurses have a vital role in the process of sharing information with patients, and complement the practitioners role in ensuring patients receive the required information and that they understand it.

All videoconferencing registrations for the site and participants are essential;
to register a site for the event, or for assistance finding a site in your local area, please call
Global Telehealth on (03) 9927 7777 or email: service@telehealth.com.au

To participate from a site already registered for the event log onto www.telehealth.com.au

There will be a cost involved, check the website for details.

USEFUL INFORMATION FROM BEYOND THE NETWORK

CPR Update

With thanks from ACE Newsletter Volume 12, Issue 4 July/August 2006

In a move aimed at increasing survival rates from cardiac arrest, the Australian Resuscitation Council is making new recommendations on how CPR is performed.

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“The radical shift in this life saving technique is based on international evidence that more frequent chest compressions may result in an increased chance of survival” said Associate Professor Ian Jacobs the National Chair of the Australian Resuscitation Council.

‘CPR will now be performed with a ratio of 30 compressions to 2 ventilations’ said Professor Jacobs. “The new guidelines will be much simpler to teach and easier to remember”

For more information check the website www.resus.org.au

Important changes to the management of abnormal Pap smears in asymptomatic Australian Women

With thanks to ADGP News 12th July 2006

Cervical Cancer is one of the most preventable and curable of all cancers. It is estimated that up to 90 per cent of the most common type of cervical cancer squamous cell carcinoma may be prevented if cell changes are detected and treated early-hence the importance of the National Cervical Screening Program.

The NHRMC has revised its guidelines regarding the management of abnormal Pap smears in asymptomatic women in Australia.

The main changes relate to the following areas:

- recommendations for repeat Pap smears in women with low grade changes
- recommendations for treatment in women with low grade changes proved by biopsy
- referrals for colposcopy
- post-treatment tests for women with high grade changes
- new terminology for reporting Pap smear results

Information for GPs on the new guidelines and educational resources for patients will be distributed to general practices and Divisions in mid July 2006. Additional information can be obtained from the Department of Health and Ageing Website at <http://www.cervicalscreen.health.gov.au/>

DVD copies of the Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF) broadcast on the changes will also be available on request or can be downloaded as a web cast from the RHEF website <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/604/604.html>

For further enquiries please contact Michelle Mack at the Department by phone on 02 6289 4030 or by email michele.mack@health.gov.au

Lifeline's just Ask

With thanks to ADGP News July 2006

Lifeline's just ask is a national mental health information and referral service operated by lifeline and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Lifeline's just ask provides an information-based intervention for people with a mental illness as well as carers, family members, communities and professionals in rural and regional areas. Lifeline's Just ask has a 1300 13 11 14 information helpline and dedicated website at www.justask.org.au and also responds to email enquiries.

Lifeline's Just ask has developed a number of self-help toolkits on a range of mental health and trauma related issues.

These toolkits are available to support GP's in providing education in plain English to patients on mental health issues. Lifelines Just ask can also be used as a referral point for patients and their carers who have recently been diagnosed with a mental illness.

Lifelines Just ask is an information service and does not provide a counselling service. Lifeline's 24-hour telephone counselling service is available for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Australia on 13 11 14

National Nursing and Nursing Educational Taskforce Website

With thanks to RCNA eBulletin Volume 1, Issue 6 28th July 2006

The RCNA encourages all members to visit the National Nursing and Education Taskforce website <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/> where there is some very useful information on a variety of nursing topics.

Latest resources available; - National Nurse Prescribing Glossary

-Development on Recommendation 4 – Nationally Consistent Scope of Practice
Progress Update and Publications

-Latest MYTH BUSTER –Interprofessional education and practice

Events for September

1st-7th September Asthma Week

National Asthma Week in 2006 is drawing attention to the 2 million Australians who live daily with asthma. In particular the week will focus on encouraging people with asthma to manage their asthma through their asthma action plan. Information can be found on www.asthmaaustralia.org.au and www.nationalasthma.org.au

3rd-9th September Parkinson's Week

10th September World Suicide Prevention Day

Suicide is not only a tragic loss of life but it has a great impact on family, friends and the community at large. For every person who successfully suicides there are many more people who attempt suicide. The following websites are a few organisations that offer information on suicide, suicide prevention and strategies to assist if you are faced with someone who is considering suicide;

Australian Government health and Ageing www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/mental-suicide

Lifeline. www.lifeline.com.au the lifeline website also provides a link to ASSIST Courses, 2 day workshops that help equip people for suicide first aid.

Health Insite. www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/suicide_prevention

18th-24th September National Stroke Week

www.strokefoundation.com.au has information, including publications and resources for both patients and health professionals on stroke management. You can also register on line to receive a stroke pack.

8th Sept-8th Oct Dementia Awareness Month

Dementia Awareness month 2006 marks the centenary of the discovery of Alzheimer's disease. Dementia Awareness month offers the community to hear about the latest developments in research and the ways to reduce the risk of dementia. The Alzheimer's Australia website, www.alzheimers.org.au contains resources for both patients and health professionals.

30th September World Retina Day

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

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