



Headline News

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Nursing in General Practice Recruitment and Orientation Resource

AGPN is pleased to advise that the Nursing in General Practice Recruitment and Orientation Resource is now available. We would like to acknowledge the support received from Divisions, general practices and the members of the Reference Group, in the development of the resource.

The Recruitment and Orientation Resource is designed to assist in the recruitment and orientation of nurses into the general practice setting. The resource has been developed utilising and building on existing resources from Divisions of General Practice. It is applicable to a national audience and will provide information and resources for the employer, all members of the general practice team, Divisions of General Practice and nurses new to general practice.

To access the Resource click

<http://www.agpn.com.au/nigprecrut/>

The Resource is designed as a web based product as it includes links to relevant websites for the most current information. A limited number of hard copies are available free of charge from AGPN for practices without internet access.

A hard copy of the Resource has been sent to the Executive Officer at each Division to assist in promoting the resource to practices. Flyers promoting the Recruitment and Orientation Resource have been sent with the resource. To obtain additional flyers contact Toni Rice, contact details below.

AGPN are currently developing a generic PowerPoint presentation and training program utilising the Resource to assist divisions with recruitment and orientation of nurses to general practice.

The project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

For further information on the Nursing in General Practice Recruitment and Orientation Resource contact Toni Rice, Nurse Program Officer, Australian General Practice Network at 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 strengthen their NiGP programs.

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

21 NSW Divisions have received funding to support the recruitment and orientation of additional practice nurses. Over the last 6 months an additional 39 practice nurses have been recruited across these divisions.

The Alliance has funded an additional two Well Women's Course (7 courses were already planned for 2007) specifically for the Sydney Metropolitan Divisions who now qualify for the Cervical Screening practice nurse item number. These additional courses have prompted a new approach by FPA to the provision of the clinical component of the course. Practice Nurses will now complete their clinical component (a minimum of 14 hours) within their own practice under the supervision of a FPA clinical instructor.

Last year the Alliance tendered with the North Coast Institute of TAFE to provide a Health Promotion Course specifically designed for practice nurses. This course was available externally or by a 2 day face to face workshop. Following evaluation of the workshop and external participants feedback the TAFE will now provide this course only by face to face. They have redeveloped the program content to be more suitable to general practice needs and successful completion will be on a pass/fail assessment rate.

SADI reported on the GP Plus Nurses initiative. The aim of the initiative is to increase the number of practice nurses employed across Adelaide by about 50 a year over the next three years. Two information sessions have been held, an information session for nurses interested in working in general practice and a session aimed at General Practitioners, practice managers and practice nurses. The two evenings were extremely successful with positive feedback by nurses wishing to enter into general practice and by the general practices themselves wishing to utilize practice nurses.

ACT reported on the increase of practice nurses in the ACT from 60 to 104. The 60% increase has been due to successful networking within the Division, advertising through the Divisional newsletter/local newspaper and the increases awareness of Nursing in General practice generally. The ACT will be offering an orientation program to nurses new to general practice.

GPDV has provided funding to the Ballarat Division to increase the number of practices involved in clinical placements of a 3rd year nursing students by 205 in the next 12 months. Activities processing towards this outcome include:

- Newsletter article on the 2006 placement experience of those practices and clinical educators.
- Promotion of clinical placement via the eNewsletter and website.
- Delivery of orientation/preceptor session for participating GPNs who will act as clinical educators.

GDPV is currently involved in a joint project with Whitehorse Division of General Practice to develop and information package on nurse led chronic disease clinics in General Practice. The work is a flow on from the Good Life Club consortium demonstration project 2004 on chronic disease self management. The work that is currently in progress is to develop an Information Package or "how to" resource which can

be used by staff within divisions of general practice interested in established nurse led chronic disease clinic either within a division or a practice.

QDGP has funded 8 Divisions that didn't have a current practice nurse database to gather the data and develop/update their own database and email networks for their practice nurses.

QDGP has established division workgroups to develop capacity building projects to address common needs through collaboration. The workgroup projects are as follows:

- Urban- to develop a kit of employment models for general practice nursing, to promote and enhance the understanding of practice nursing to GPs and the nursing profession
- Provincial- to formulate a generic tool to be used by Division staff to assist in the organisation and recruitment of practice nurses to courses and workshops: consistency in program role-out, as well as pre and post course support is more likely to bring about positive change in general practice.
- Rural- to build the 'Queensland Rural Practice Network e-network', to enhance the capacity of the rural divisions to support their practice nurses by providing up to date information and resources and responding to web-based questions posed by rural practice nurses.

Western Australia General Practice Network has funded 4 division project proposals to increase the uptake and awareness of nurses working in general practice. The project covers:

- targeting practices-data collection for PN PIP and current nurse numbers
- GP/PM education information night
- follow up GP/PM information night with practice visits
- data base work where needed training
- recruitment drive
- orientate nurses.

General Practice Tasmania has provided funding to support recruitment of nurses in urban areas. The project is utilising the following strategies:-

- information sessions for targeted practices on the benefits of a PN
- practice visits by experienced PN and Div PO
- financial modelling and other information focussed primarily on non PN PIP eligibility
- recruitment assistance as barriers are identified
- exploration of individual general practice needs and advice on potential PN roles
- exploration of a "trial a nurse" model.

General Practice Tasmania is coordinating the state wide roll out of the Graduate Certificate in Nursing, General Practice. The Tasmanian Divisions have 24 nurses commencing semester 1, 2007. GPT has contracted a state wide tutor and is currently coordinating the introductory workshops to be held in the three respective divisions.

The Northern Territory NiGP SBO Program Officer has recently been appointed to the role. The two NT divisions have joined with a SA division to commence the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) in Semester 1 2007. NT have also been working collaboratively with CRANA on the telephone

education nurses network (TENN), at present approximately 20 nurses call in to each session but this is expected to increase with more extensive advertising.

Australian General Practice Nursing Study

AGPN with the Australian National University are currently undertaking the Australian General Practice Nursing Study. The study aims to examine the role of nurses in general practice and to factors influencing these roles.

The research is divided into two phases. The results of Phase 1 describe the way in which nurses work in general practice.

25 practices were visited in phase 1, as part of the visit trained researchers observed the nurses activities for a two periods of one hour. The nurses were encouraged to undertake activities as normal, many reporting that these activities were slowed down as a result of being observed. Results showed that there were an average of 15 encounters with patients, doctors, reception staff and others. In one practice there were 36 brief contacts over one hour, with a rate on one contact every 100 second, most of the contacts requiring a response.

A report on the preliminary findings from Phase 1 is available at:

http://www.adgp.com.au/client_images/96598.pdf

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)

Twelve Divisions of General Practice with approximately 100 students have registered to deliver the Graduate Certificate in Nursing [General Practice] (GCNGP) in Semester 1 2007.

AGPN have appointed a National Moderator for the GCNGP further details will be available in the April edition of Nursing News.

An information pack and PowerPoint presentation are currently being developed to assist Divisions promoting the GCNGP.

Information brochures on the GCNGP are available in the AGPN Network Resource Centre or by contacting Toni Rice on trice@agpn.com.au

Network Resource Centre

Nursing in General Practice resources are now available on the Network Resource Centre.

Entry to the Resource Centre is through the AGPN Website at My AGPN.

A user name and password is required to enter the site. The user name and password can be obtained from each Division Executive Officer.

NiGP Promotional Material

The Nursing in General Practice promotional material can be viewed on the AGPN Website within the Nursing in General Practice Program:

Nursing in General Practice: Information for nurses http://www.adgp.com.au/client_images/90803.pdf

Nursing in General Practice: Information for general practice
http://www.adgp.com.au/client_images/90806.pdf

Nursing in General Practice: Information for patients
http://www.adgp.com.au/client_images/90800.pdf

Flyers are also available to promote the Nursing in General Practice Recruitment and Orientation Resource.

To order copies of the promotional material contact Toni Rice at trice@agpn.com.au

Other News

National Rural Health Alliance Inc – ‘A Brief Guide for Nurses and Nursing Employers in Rural and Remote Settings’

The National Rural Health Alliance Inc has produced a publication– “A Brief Guide for Nurses and Nursing Employers in Rural and Remote Settings”.

The resource is a useful supplement to the Nursing in General Practice Recruitment and Orientation Resource.

The guide can also be downloaded from the National Rural Health Alliance Inc website at <http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/projects/?IntContId=97&IntCatId=5>

Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives (ARNM) -Mental Health Emergencies Training Project

The Australian Rural Nurses and Midwives gained support in 2003 for a pilot ‘Mental Health Emergencies’ Project. In 2005 the training program was rolled out to rural and remote NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. Due to the success of the program and the increasing demand further funding was obtained to roll out the training in rural and remote areas across the remaining states in Australia.

Funding for the project is provided through the Department of Health and Ageing.

The ARNM website contains further information on Mental Health Emergencies Training
http://www.arnm.asn.au/projects/Mental_Health.htm

National Study of Practice Nurses

A national study of Practice Nurses is being undertaken by the Monash University Department of General Practice. The study will look at the clinical duties and other, non-clinical activities of Practice Nurses in general practices across Australia.

The study, which is endorsed by the Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA), will fill an important gap in knowledge about Practice Nurses' work. This information is vital at a time of such rapid growth and development in the Practice Nurse workforce.

Dr Catherine Joyce, who is leading the Practice Nurse Work Survey, will be calling for 500 Practice Nurses from across Australia to take part. The main phase of the study will commence in April 2007.

Nurses in the study will provide information about their contacts with individual patients, as well as background information about themselves and the practice in which they work.

Participants in the study will also be offered individual feedback reports which provide a comparison of their work profile with group averages.

The study provides an exciting opportunity for Practice Nurses to get involved in research in a project of direct relevance to them. The study will inform future development and policy for the Practice Nurse workforce.

For further information on the National study of Practice Nurses contact: Dr Catherine Joyce. Email: catherine.joyce@med.monash.edu.au

This research project is supported by a National Health and Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship (384363).

New Guidelines on Heart Failure

With thanks Nursing Review January 2007

New guidelines for the prevention, detection and management of chronic heart failure have been released by the Heart Foundation and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand.

The guidelines were developed for GPs, cardiologists, nurses and other health professionals. They aim to help improve the management of patients with chronic heart failure and ultimately, health outcomes and quality of life. These guidelines have been endorsed by peak professional groups, including the RCNA.

A copy of the guidelines is available at www.heartfoundation.com.au

Calendar of Events

15-17 March: The Worlds Greatest Shave: <http://www.leukaemia.org.au/web/>

17-25 March Scleroderma National Awareness Week

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