



COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF NURSE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

A Brief Word from the Chief Nurse ...

I have been asked where the Nursing Office will sit in the Department of Health re-structure. The Nursing Office sits within the Division of Public Health and Clinical Coordination which will be headed up Chris Baggoey. We are looking forward to working with Chris and the other members of the new Division in the near future.

This has been a very busy couple of months for the Nursing Office. The lead up to the Excellence Awards is always busy and as well there has been a lot of activity around the implementation of the Agency Panel. In addition the Midwifery Upskilling Package has been finalised and launched by

the Minister for Health on International Midwives Day in Mt Gambier. This is an exciting time of year for nursing and midwifery and I hope that you all had the opportunity to participate in some of the annual celebratory events that are held.

Many of the health units attended the annual Nursing Expo and the Nursing Office attended the Career One Expo to promote nursing and midwifery as career options. While the numbers of applications for nursing and midwifery have improved over recent years we need to continue to promote them as career options.

Coming up is a workshop

looking at how we can improve clinical placements and the way we work with the education providers in this important area. This is a vital part of the education for future nurses and will build on the work that was done previously as part of the Recruitment and Retention Plan.

Elsewhere you will find an update on the Nursing Survey – please get those responses in as soon as you can.

Debra Thoms

Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Survey ...

The Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Index Survey is a questionnaire that was sent to all practicing nurses and midwives in the South Australian public system.

If you have already completed and returned the questionnaire, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please do so today as they must be returned by **Friday, 27 May 2005**. If you are a few days late, we will still accept your response.

The information gained from the analysis of the survey results will be used to identify how the issues impacting on nurses/midwives can be addressed to optimise the best outcomes for staff and patients treated in the public health system. As we are attempting to acquire this information from all practicing nurses and midwives, it is important that your information be included in this study. This will ensure that our

results are as meaningful and accurate as possible.

If by some chance you did not receive the questionnaire, or it was misplaced, please contact your Nursing Administration in the first instance before contacting the Nursing Office, Department of Health by telephone: (08) 8226 0749 or email: nursing@health.sa.gov.au.

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Key Articles:

- *Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Index Survey*
- *2005 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards*
- *Nursing and Midwifery Website*



2005 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards ...

South Australia's original Aboriginal nurses were honoured at the 2005 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards that was held at the Entertainment Centre on Friday, 13 May.

Nursing Clinical Practice Community Registered Nurse/Midwife - Kathy Wooldridge, Community Health Nurse, Roxby Downs/Woomera Community Hospital.

Nursing Clinical Practice Community Enrolled Nurse - Jane McCallum, Enrolled Nurse, Booleroo Centre District Hospital and Health Service.

Nursing Education - Alyson Smith, Director of Nursing and Midwifery Education, Flinders Medical Centre.

Nursing Research - Lyn Helbig, Clinical Nurse/Quality Coordinator, Barossa Village Incorporated.

Nursing Clinical Practice Residential and Aged Care Registered Nurse/Midwife - Beverley Lawler, Director of Nursing, The Vales Aged Care Facility.

Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Nursing Clinical Practice Metropolitan Acute Care Enrolled Nurse - Debbie Muir, Enrolled Nurse, Repatriation General Hospital.

Nursing Clinical Practice Metropolitan Acute Care Registered Nurse/Midwife - Christine Walsh, Nursing Unit Head, Boylan Inpatient Services, Children Youth and Women's Health Service.

Nursing Leadership - Judy Smith, Executive Director Nursing and Client Services, Royal District Nursing Services.

Back Left to Right: Alyson Smith; Kathy Wooldridge; Debbie Muir; Lyn Helbig; Jodie Altschwager; Judy Smith

Front Left to Right: Christine Walsh; Gillian Squire; Jane McCallum; Beverley Lawler



The women - Linda Jackson, Lowitja O'Donoghue, Grace Sopar, Muriel Olsson, Faith Thomas, Margaret Lawrie and the late Nellie Nihill – overcame the racial barriers of the 1950s and became nurses during a time when Aboriginal women were only employed as domestics. The ceremony provided a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contribution that Aboriginal nurses have made to the nursing profession.

The 2005 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Award winners are:

Nursing Clinical Practice Rural and Remote Care Enrolled Nurse - Gillian Squire, Enrolled Nurse, Mount Gambier Hospital.

Nursing Clinical Practice Rural and Remote Registered Nurse/Midwife - Jodie Altschwager, Rural Liaison Nurse,



Presentation of the 2005/2006 Premiers Nursing Scholarships ...

At the Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards the Minister for Health presented the **2005/2006 Premier's Nursing Scholarships** - three overseas scholarships valued at \$12,000 each, and one Australasian scholarship valued at \$5,000.

The Scholarship recipients are:

Judy Deimel (The Queen Elizabeth Hospital) who will explore Specialist cognitive Memory Clinics and extending patient support to the community;

Tracey Doherty (Flinders Medical Centre) who will explore the current practices and role of the Oncology Nurse Practitioner;

Michelle Muncaster (Children Youth and Women's Health Service) who will explore

caring for children who require prolonged or frequent intravenous access and non-painful diagnostic studies; and

Deryn Thompson (Allergy SA) who will explore nurse-led education, support and service model for children with eczema.



Left to Right: Deryn Thompson; Judy Deimel; Minister for Health, the Hon Lea Stevens; Tracey Doherty; Michelle Muncaster

May 2005 Committee Update ...

Mental Health Nurses Advisory Group (MHNAG)

The Mental Health Nurses Advisory Group (MHNAG) held a workshop in December and discussed topics such as Practice Development Nurse roles, model and strategy for implementation of clinical supervision and the potential roles and implementation of MH Nurse Practitioners. Discussion was also held around the mechanism for scholarships to support nurses undertaking post-graduate studies in mental health nursing. Funding to pilot Practice Development Nurses has now been forwarded to the three metropolitan regions.

A workshop on Clinical Supervision has been organised and each region offered places to attend.

The MHNAG will have quarterly workshop with an interim short meeting during 2005. The Education and Training Working

Group has been re formed beginning in February to look at specific mental health issues around education for mental health nurses and general nurses. The Labour-force Implementation Group will continue in 2005.

Mental Health Nurses Advisory Group - Clinical Supervision Workshop –

As one of the retention strategies identified by the Mental Health Nurse Advisory Group at the December 2004 workshop is the implementation of Clinical Supervision program into the workplace for mental health nurses.

As part of the implementation phase of Clinical Supervision program a 2-day workshop has been developed and will be conducted by the New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry. The workshop will be held on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 May

2005 at Glenside Campus Mental Health Service, Glenside.

The workshop is designed for mental health nurses who are undertaking a supervision role for individual or groups. The aim of the workshop is to provide participants with a framework for conducting and evaluating clinical supervision session.

Combined Directors of Nursing Workshop

The Combined Directors of Nursing (DONs) consist of the metropolitan DONs and the seven members of the Country Nurse Executive (CNE). This group meets in a workshop format quarterly. At its most recent meeting, the Report of the Review of the Transition to Professional Practice Programs was discussed and an Action Plan developed. The Report will soon be available on the nursing website or from your Director of Nursing or CNE representative.

'Providing Culturally Appropriate Palliative Care to Indigenous Australians' Resource Kit ...

South Australian review of the 'Providing culturally appropriate palliative care to Indigenous Australians Resource Kit'.

Very few Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use palliative care services in South Australia or for that matter across Australia. This may be due to reasons such as palliative care services not being culturally appropriate, information about palliative care services not being readily available in Aboriginal Health Services and to Aboriginal families wanting to look after their ter-

minally ill family member at home.

To assist palliative care providers to make their services more accessible and culturally appropriate, a national resource has been developed by Wodonga TAFE 'Providing culturally appropriate palliative care to Indigenous Australians Resource Kit'. This resource is currently being reviewed to identify how it could be adapted to specifically meet the needs of South Australia.

The South Australian resource will provide

local cultural information for palliative care providers and assist them to make links with Aboriginal Health Services and the Aboriginal community so that culturally safe services can be provided.

If you would like more information please contact Josie Owens (Project Officer) on (08) 8226 6322 or email josie.owens@health.sa.gov.au

Submitted by Josie Owens, 'Providing Culturally Appropriate Palliative Care to Indigenous Australians Resource Kit' Project Officer

Nurse Practitioner Events ...

The Nurse Practitioner Advisory Group was established to address the profile of Nurse Practitioners to employers and clinicians and also to build the capacity of the Nurse Practitioner workforce within South Australia.

As part of building the capacity of Nurse Practitioner workforce there are a number of events that are currently happening:

- *Nurse Practitioner – Improving Health Outcomes Forum* was conducted at the Stamford Grand – Glenelg on Friday 6 May. The forum was divided into two sessions. The first session focused on the 'Big Picture' of where Nurse Practitioners fit into the health system and

vision for the future in South Australia. The second session focused on establishing positions within health organisations and impact that Nurse Practitioners have upon service delivery by enhancing and improving health outcomes for clients, their families and the wider community.

- *Dispelling the Myths of being a Nurse Practitioner Workshop* will provide an opportunity for registered nurses interested in becoming Nurse Practitioners. The workshop will be held at St. Paul's Reception & Function Centre, 200 Pultney Street, Adelaide on 2 June 2005. The workshop has been well received by

nurses wanting to attend the day.

- A workshop will be held later in the year to provide the opportunity for nurses in knowing what and how to put together their nursing portfolios so to demonstrate the level of practice which is a requirement of the authorisation process by the Nurses Board of South Australia. Fellow Nurse Practitioners and representatives from the Nurses Board will co-facilitate the day.

For further information contact Marcia Hakendorf, Nursing Office, SA Department of Health on telephone (08) 8226 6370 or email nursing@health.sa.gov.au.

PEPA Program Update ...

Thanks are extended to our host venues and mentors for the support they continue to provide to the participants of the PEPA program. The activities implemented within the workplace following the clinical placement have demonstrated the learning and the support for these initiatives from the employers.

The PEPA program in SA has been extended to May 2006. Additional funding has been received to enable **General Practitioners, Rural and Remote Medical Staff** and Palliative Care Specialist staff to undertake a short supervised clinical placement with a specialist palliative care service.

In 2005 **Allied Health Professionals** provided valuable information about what they wanted from the PEPA program and as a result interactive regional workshops will commence in June 2005. Topics identified were: what is palliative care, management of clinical symptoms, pain management, models of Care, and ethics at end-of-life, counselling skills, bereavement skills. Information regarding these workshops will be available shortly.

Information sharing workshops will be conducted with **Aboriginal Health Workers**

during 2005 regarding a palliative approach and palliative care.

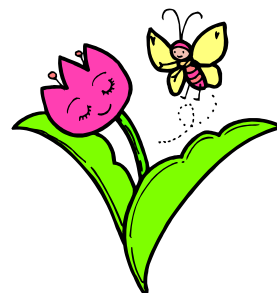
Participants of the PEPA program who agreed for its use have provided the following information. We thank the participants, their employers and mentors for the support of PEPA and the valuable feedback and constructive comment provided.

- “I have a better understanding of the collaborative interdisciplinary functioning within a hospice setting with strong teamwork evident. They enjoy the fact that they are able to deliver holistic patient care with relative autonomy. These attitudes give the staff a high level of satisfaction in their roles, which in turn is reflected in positive outcomes for their dying patients and their families.”
- “During my time within a community outreach setting I observed the effective way the nurses address the care needs of clients. The nurses together with clients and their families are able to plan the approach to clients care. As the clients condition changes the nurse’s approach is flexible in meeting their particular care needs.”

- “My clinical experience was one that I thoroughly enjoyed and it is my plan to work collaboratively with the other PEPA participant from our region to develop a clinical procedure guideline for palliative care that could be suitable for nursing interventions in palliative care throughout our health services.”
- “Obtained necessary information to develop improved care plans and complete our resource manual and am able to speak with colleagues and the wider community on palliative care issues.”

For further information or details please contact:

Marlene Anderson
PEPA Program Manager
Telephone (08) 8226 6428
Fax: (08) 8226 6235



Updated Nursing and Midwifery Website ...

The Nursing Office has reviewed and re-developed the nursing and midwifery website www.nursingsa.com. The website will continue to be developed over the new few months.

The website offers information to the community, potential nurses and midwives and to the profession. The sections are ‘Becoming a Nurse or Midwife’; ‘Nursing/Midwifery in South Australia’; ‘Professional Practice’; and ‘Nursing/Midwifery Workforce’.

An Executive Section is also .

E-mail any comments or feedback to nursing@health.sa.gov.au.

A screenshot of the Nursing & Midwifery website homepage. The page features a navigation menu at the top with links: Office of the Chief Nurse, Becoming a Nurse/Midwife, Nursing/Midwifery in SA, Professional Practice, Workforce, and Executive Section. The main content area has a search bar on the left and the headline "Nursing & Midwifery takes you places" on the right. The footer contains the Government of South Australia Department of Health logo, a list of links (Home, Contact Us, Links, Site Map, FAQ, Privacy Policy, Disclaimer), and the text "Last Modified: 24 Jan 2005 | Copyright © 2005 Department of Health". There are also logos for the Government of South Australia and South Australia Central.

Nursing/Midwifery Agency Tender Update ...

The transition period for the Nursing/Midwifery Agency Tender ended on Monday, 9 May 2005.

It is mandatory for Health Units to seek and obtain all agency nursing/midwifery requirements from the Panel. If these requirements cannot be met either by skill or location, the health site must undertake a formal exemption process as detailed in the User Guide.

The Panel Members are as listed below:

- ASEPS;
- Acclaim Recruitment;
- Chandler McLeod Health;
- Health Employment;
- Health Management and Nursing Services;
- HenderCare Nursing Support Services (**Metropolitan regions ONLY**);

- McArthur Management Services;
- NASANSB;
- Nursing Care Services; and
- West Australian Nursing Agency (**Country regions ONLY**).

The Contract Managers for the period of 14 February 2005 to 31 July 2005 are as listed below. Following the specified period, Kate Phillips and Katie Hefford of the Strategic Procurement Unit will provide **all** contract management.

Contact Management Team are:

Mrs Kate Phillips
Manager Major Contracts
Strategic Procurement Unit
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ADELAIDE SA 5000

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heather.osborne@health.sa.gov.au

Alcohol & Other Drug (AOD) Nursing Conference ...

Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia Inc (DANA) would like to invite nurses, midwives and health professionals interested in AOD issues to attend the Annual Conference entitled '*AOD Nursing at the*

grass roots: Moving Forward, Looking Back', to be held at **Rydges, Capital Hill, Canberra, June 23-24, 2005, during Drug Action Week.**

For further information on Conference themes

and registration, please go to the DANA website www.danaconference.com.

Submitted by Jodie Shoobridge, President, DANA
E-mail president@danaonline.org

NURSING OFFICE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms, Chief Nursing Officer
Erminia Morizzi, Administrative Assistant

The following portfolios within the Nursing Office have been allocated as listed:

Deb Pratt Principal Nursing Adviser	Workforce Budget Recruitment and Retention
Heather Osborne Principal Project Nurse	Information Systems Communications/Marketing Midwifery
Marcia Hakendorf Project Nurse	Nurse Practitioner Research Officer to the Select Committee of Nurse Education & Training
Ian Thackray Project Nurse	NurseWest Project

The Nursing Office works closely with a number of Department of Health Divisions which include:

- Aboriginal Services Division
- Country Division
- Safety & Quality

NURSING OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Department of Health