

Name the Newsletter, Newsletter



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2007

Greetings from Jenny's Desk ...

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2007 and also the first I have been involved with in SA. I must admit I can not believe it's already been 3 months since I've started in my role as Chief Nurse of SA.

I have been in discussion with many of your Nursing and Midwifery Executive Leaders to facilitate opportunities to meet you through different forums, sessions, discussions, activities so I can gain a greater understanding of the area of your practice and the environment in which you work. I look forward to meeting you soon.

The format of the newsletter has changed which will facilitate a snap shot of activities/events/happening/initiatives and if you want more information there will be either contact details or relevant links to websites.

I have been privileged to have had the opportunity to facilitate the validation workshop for 'Building a Valued and Sustainable

Nursing and Midwifery Workforce' Strategic Plan 2007-2010 (Retention, Attraction & Recruitment). This document will help set the direction for Nursing and Midwifery over the next 3 years. I met just under ninety more nurses and midwives from across country and metropolitan areas.

There was great discussion on the work-in-progress document on the day. The Nursing and Midwifery Office are currently collating all the comments/ideas/suggestions made by the validation workshop members and it is planned that a draft is ready for the Steering Committee meeting in the near future.

Once the Steering Committee has endorsed the draft document it will be forwarded to the SA Department of Health Portfolio Executive and to the Minister of Health. I will keep you informed of its progress.

In late January the Nursing and Midwifery Executive Leaders Forum had its first meeting

of 2007. The group is currently finalising its terms of reference (TOR), which will be on the Nursing website once endorsed. Country Health SA, Nursing & Midwifery Leaders Forum also met in early February, we are just in the process of finalising the TOR.

I also had the opportunity to hear from some of your clinical Nursing and Midwifery Leaders who have gone through the Clinical Leadership Program, at the 'Clinical Leadership and Clinical Practice Improvement Seminar' on the 14 February. I found the sessions informative, inspiring and demonstrated the many great innovations happening across the health sector. I look forward to being involved in many more forums and opportunities for sharing ideas.

Australian and New Zealand Council of Chief Nurses (ANZCCN) ...

At the December 2006 meeting in Melbourne, the ANZCCN (hereafter the Council) discussed a wide range of issues in the interests of promoting national consistency for nursing and midwifery. The Council also exchanged information in order to facilitate a robust and coordinated approach to nursing and midwifery policy and practice.

National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET) Final Report

The Council is aware that the final report of the Taskforce is progressing to AHMAC in December 2006. The Council looks forward to the release of the Report and believes it will assist in shaping the future strategic di-

rection for nursing and midwifery in Australia.. The work and outcomes of N³ET will make a valuable contribution to the planned move towards national consistency identified by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

Nurse Practitioners

The Council agrees that national consistency for nurse practitioners is imperative and that a uniform policy context and regulatory framework will optimise the impact of these health practitioners in terms of client outcomes. The Council is supportive of the national nurse practitioner research project entitled 'Reforming Health Care: Nurse Prac-

itioner Workforce Redesign' led by Professor Glenn Gardner.

ANZCCN members are:

ACT	Adj. Prof. Joy Vickerstaff
NSW	Adj. Prof. Debra Thoms
NT	Mr Greg Rickard
NZ	Mr Mark Jones
QLD	Adj. Prof. Pauline Ross
SA	Adj. Prof. Jenny Beutel
TAS	Ms Fiona Stoker
VIC	Adj Prof. Belinda Moyes
WA	Adj Prof. Dr Phillip Della

Name the Newsletter Competition ...

This is the inaugural edition of the new Nursing and Midwifery Office Newsletter and we want you to 'Name the Newsletter'.

This is a competition and the prize that the winner will receive is:

1. South Australia's Chief Nurse working with you in your role (whether clinical, educational, managerial or research) for **one complete day**;
2. For you to work with the Chief Nurse for

one complete day; and

3. Professional development support.

All submissions are to be forwarded by e-mail to nursing@health.sa.gov.au. The competition closes **13 APRIL 2007**.

The aim of the newsletter is for the Nursing and Midwifery Office to share information and initiatives that are occurring and to provide you with an opportunity to share inno-

ventions with your colleagues.

The Nursing and Midwifery Office would also like your feedback about what you would like to see in future editions of the newsletter

This is your opportunity to put your creative talents to the test and create a title and design that reflects the aims of the newsletter.

Get your entries in NOW!!!

Transition to Practice for Mental Health Nurses ...

The Transition to Practice for Mental Health Nurses is a 3 month project aimed at developing a State-wide program for newly graduated Mental Health Registered and Enrolled Nurses. The program will provide

a broad framework consisting of best practice principles for new graduates to gain confidence in their knowledge and skills to feel supported in their practice as Mental Health Nurses. This project will involve ex-

tensive consultation with Nursing Directors, Mental Health Nursing Directors, Nurse Educators and Staff Development Coordinators.

For further information, contact Simone Pal on (08) 8226 9823 or e-mail simone.pal@health.sa.gov.au

Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards ...

Tickets are now available for the 2007 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards which will be held on 11 May 2007 at the

Adelaide Entertainment Centre. Tickets cost \$80 per person and include dinner, drinks, parking and entertainment.

For further information visit www.nursingsa.com/office_awards.php or contact Heather Osborne ☎ 8226 7366.

Nurse Practitioner ...

The country nurse practitioner role development group is a subcommittee of the Country Nursing Executive and is supported by Country Health SA in developing Nurse

Practitioner positions within rural and remote areas. This new and exciting initiative is aiming to lead and support the introduction of NP positions across acute, aged care, commu-

nity and mental health settings in the near future. For further information contact Andrew Lane (chairperson) Andrew.Lane@saugov.sa.gov.au.

SA Public Sector Enrolled, Registered & Mental Health Nursing and Midwifery Scholarships ...

The Nursing and Midwifery Office has received 175 scholarship applications for 2007 which is significantly increased from

2006. The committee has determined the successful applicants and you will soon receive a letter in regards to your application.

For any further enquires, contact Marcia Hakendorf by e-mail to Marcia.Hakendorf@health.sa.gov.au.

Career Structure Review ...

An outline of proposals from the Career Structure Review has been circulated and

feedback has been received. For further information and the opportunity to provide

comment and feedback, please visit www.nursingsa.com/prof_career.php.

Mapping of Available Clinical Placements In South

Mapping of the available clinical placements was undertaken in 2006 to identify individual health units, wards and community health centres ability to support the clinical placement of nursing and midwifery students. Rural and remote health facilities provided a very positive response to this request particularly in their ability to support diploma of nursing students and overseas nursing students. The survey has assisted education providers in placing nursing and midwifery students on clinical placement in 2007.

Clinical Placement Assessment Tools ...

A working party has been developed and is currently piloting a new assessment tool for nursing students undertaking the Diploma of Nursing. Evaluation forms have been distributed to participating health facilities to provide feedback to the working party. A tool for students undertaking the Bachelor of Nursing is also being developed for piloting in early 2007.

If you would like to know more about Clinical Placements contact Trish Brown on telephone (08) 8226 6333 or by e-mail patricia.brown@health.sa.gov.au.

Student Orientation ...

Orientation for all nursing and midwifery students undertaking a clinical placement in a Department of Health facility is now on-line via www.nursingsa.com under 'Becoming a Nurse/Midwife'. All education providers have been requested to ensure that their students have completed the orientation and provided the appropriate documentation prior to commencing a placement.

A State-Wide Preceptorship Program ...

A working party is currently developing guidelines and a curriculum for a state wide preceptorship program which will be available for nurses and midwives in 2007 on www.nursingsa.com.

Safer Conversations Project (Department of Health Funded) ...

The Department of Health has funded the Health & Community Services Complaints Commissioner (hcscc), Leena Sudano, to undertake a *Safer Conversations* pilot project. *Safer Conversations* training workshops will enable Nurses and Midwives to develop

skills:

- to respond more effectively to consumer and carer complaints; and
- to raise and resolve concerns with colleagues about behaviours that risk the safety and quality of patient care.

An information sheet about the hcscc *Safer Conversations* pilot project will be available at www.hcscc.sa.gov.au from 16 March 2007.

For further information contact Alison McLeod, Project Manager by e-mail to Alison.mcleod@hcscc.sa.gov.au or by ☎ 08 8226 8657.

Mental Health ...

The 2002-2006 Enterprise Agreement between the Australian Nursing Federation and the then Department of Human Services included an appendix on the 'Review of workloads and staffing methodologies in community and community mental health areas'. In preparation for the next round of EB negotiations in 2007, the Department of Health, Nursing Office, in consultation with the ANF

has contracted a team from Flinders University, Faculty of Health Sciences to develop an appropriate staffing methodology for use by community and mental health nurses.

Using focus groups and interview methods the research team has investigated a variety of existing workload measures and have negotiated with a Reference Group of community mental health nurses to trial the

tool in a variety of mental health settings. On-going work with community health nurses is also in progress. If you would like to find out more information about the project you are welcome to contact the project manager Luisa Toffoli on telephone (08) 8201 3442, fax (08) 8201 3646 or email to Luisa.Toffoli@flinders.edu.au.