



Nursing and Midwifery Matters

what matters to you, matters to us.....

June 2007 Issue 2

Welcome to our new South Australian Nursing and Midwifery newsletter: **'Nursing and Midwifery Matters – what matters to you, matters to us'**. Nurses and midwives do matter. They are integral members of the healthcare team and their practice matters to the well being of our community.

It was fantastic to see all the ideas for a name for the newsletter and I am looking forward to working with Sharon Olsson and her working with me.

Over the last few months I have had the privilege of meeting many nurses and midwives through my visits to your workplaces. During these visits I have had many discussions with you, where you have had the opportunity to share with me your passions for your work as well as how you meet chal-

lenges in your workplace.

I have been very impressed with the great initiatives and work that is happening across South Australia.

We are planning many future events that acknowledge, celebrate and share the great contribution of nurses and midwives. I look forward to working with you on the planning of the 2008 International Midwives and Nurses week.

I am sure that by now you have heard that the SA Health Care Plan has been developed and launched by the State Government to meet future health challenges. The Plan can be accessed at www.health.sa.gov.au.

An exciting new opportunity is available for a future nursing or midwifery leader in

health care. The SA Department of Health is sponsoring a NCIS-SA Health Nursing and Midwifery Fellowship for 2 years (half-time). This Fellowship will support a public sector nurse or midwife to improve the uptake of evidence in nursing or midwifery practice in SA and will be advertised in 16 June 2007 Advertiser or visit the NHMRC website for further information www.nhmrc.gov.au/ncis.

I plan to continue with my visits across South Australia and I look forward to meeting with you and hearing your stories and sharing your wisdom.

Jenny



Photo: Jenny Beutel

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

At the April 2007 meeting, the ANZCCN (hereafter the Council) discussed the following issues:

1. Nurse Practitioners

The ANZCCN recognises the importance and value of Nurse Practitioners (NP's) in the health workforce. Nurse Practitioners have the capacity to make a significant and valuable contribution to the Australian health care system. In order for them to achieve their full potential and contribute to better client outcomes there are three key areas that need to be addressed:

- nationally consistent and enabling regulatory and legislative frameworks;
- access to MBS and PBS; and
- robust data to inform service and workforce planning.

In addition, in the interests of improving access and efficient and effective health care delivery, the ANZCCN believes that it is imperative that NP's are recognised as an integral part of the health workforce in Australia and as such are incorporated into all service and workforce planning at a local and jurisdictional

level.

2. Nurse Labour Force Census

The ANZCCN notes with concern that nationally there is a significantly declining return rate of the survey that nurses and midwives complete voluntarily as they renew their licenses to practice. The data from this survey is the richest source of nursing and midwifery demographic information available and is the basis for many nursing workforce reports and analysis. In 2005 only 53% of nurses and midwives in Australia completed the survey. The ANZCCN encourages all nurses and midwives across Australia to complete the survey in the interests of informed workforce policy and planning.

3. National projects being co-ordinated by the ANZCCN

Following on from the N3ET work the ANZCCN has received funding to co-ordinate 2 pieces of work relating to national consistency. The first piece of work relates to Re-entry to Practice programs and will identify the hallmarks of an efficient, safe, fair, defensible process for enabling people to get back on the

register or roll following a lapse in registration/enrolment and to develop evidence based principles to guide jurisdictional action and to achieve greater national consistency for re-entry to practice. The second piece of work relates to (audited) self declaration of competency for renewal of registration. This piece of work is identifying current approaches to competency in relation to renewal of registration, identifying barriers to achieving national consistency in the approach taken in relation to renewal of registration, and developing evidence based principles to guide jurisdictional action including potential indicators of legislative change required to achieve greater national consistency for the assessment of competency in relation to practice.

In progressing this work, the ANZCCN is working closely with the ANMC, Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory authorities and the Deans using the Alliance framework established by N3ET and will be reporting on progress and outcomes to the Health Workforce Principal Committee.

Winner of 'Name the Newsletter' Competition ...

Thank you to everyone who submitted their ideas for the **'Name the Newsletter'** competition.

A Selection Panel was convened and given

the hard task to select the winner and they are very proud to announce that Ms Sharon Olsson (Glenside) is the winner. I look forward to the opportunity of working with

Sharon in the near future.

Congratulations Sharon.

Gawler Health Service Midwifery Team wins SA Midwifery Excellence Award (ACM) ...

On 5 May (International Midwives Day) 'Gawler Health Service Midwifery team' won the SA Midwifery Excellence Award.

This is a great recognition for the midwifery staff of Gawler Health Service who have

done such a lot of work to increase the birthing options for women in their community.

Congratulations to all the midwives who have worked so hard to implement the current midwifery model. A special congratulations

to Sonia Angus (Clinical Midwifery Manager) and Lisa Frahm (Clinical Midwife) who have worked with the team to make this service available to women birthing in the Gawler area.



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

Over the recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of applicants receiving support for post graduate studies through the SA Public Sector Enrolled, Regis-

tered and Mental Health Nursing Scheme. This year there was a total 152 Scholarships allocated. There has been a marked uptake of nurses undertaking post graduate studies

in Mental Health Nursing. For further information contact Marcia Hakendorf by e-mail to marcia.hakendorf@health.sa.gov.au.

Nurse Practitioner ...

Directive for Health Service Prescribing Formulary Approval Sub Committee Approving Nurse Practitioner's Prescribing Formulary was endorsed by the Department of Health's Portfolio Executive in December

2006. Health services are currently establishing their Nurse Practitioner Prescribing Formulary Approval committees for Nurse practitioner to submit their prescribing formularies for approval in order to be authorised by the

Nurses Board of South Australia to be able to prescribe. For further information contact Marcia Hakendorf by e-mail to marcia.hakendorf@health.sa.gov.au.

Bedside Clinical Handover at Gawler Health Service ...

In 2005 a project was undertaken to review handover practices at Gawler Health Service (GHS). It was apparent that, the current handover process lacked a variety of processes such as structure, time, communication, documentation, consumer participation and uniformity. Bedside clinical handover was the researched method of handover to replace the existing method and this was implemented on 16 of December 2005.

Staff were supported with education and a structured process to undertake bedside

handover. Bedside handover has been utilised at GHS for a period of 17 months.

Outcomes: Nursing staff spend more time with their patients. A mandatory bedside checklist was implemented and is attended each shift which supports nurses checking patients at shift changes.

Medication errors have reduced, especially around omissions. This was the greatest impact when bedside handover was first implemented. Falls data indicated that originally falls were high at handover time,

particularly in the afternoon. Since bedside handover introduction, falls are not associated with handover times.

One objective of bedside clinical handover is that nurses and midwives will continue to participate in this patient and safety initiative and for nurses and midwives to continue to recognise the benefits of this initiative.

For further information please contact Sheryl Jericho CNM Medical Services, Gawler Health Service ph: 8521 2068.

AIMS DVD's ...

The Advanced Incident Management System (AIMS) has been implemented across metropolitan and country health services to assist regions to improve patient safety. AIMS encourages healthcare workers to report errors and system failures (incidents) in patient care to enable a timely and effective response at a local and regional level. Information on the causes of incidents can then be used to support systems change to prevent recurrence.

A DVD outlining the incident reporting process and its value has been launched and features the role of the contact centre in receiving incidents over the phone and explains how each incident assists health services learn and make changes. A number of local health professionals, senior health executives and a consumer feature on the DVD giving their views on the importance of reporting. Studies have shown that most incidents result from system failures and not from the professional misconduct of individuals. The underreporting of incidents remains a challenge for all of us as we work towards creating a health system that is as safe as possible. Copies of the DVD can be requested via safetyandqualitysa@health.sa.gov.au.

DANA Conference...

The Drug & Alcohol Nurses of Australasia 2007 Conference 'Regional Perspectives in Practice' will be held on 11 - 13 July 2007 at the University of South Australia, Centre for Regional Engagement, Whyalla South Australia.

For further information visit <http://www.danaconference.com/>.

Mental Health Clinical Supervision Pilot Programs ...

Clinical Supervision is identified in the National Mental Health Plan 2003-2008 as a key retention strategy for Mental Health Nurses. The clinical supervision pilot program has been an initiative of the Mental Health Nurses Advisory Group, Department of Health in conjunction with Mental Health Nursing leaders.

The pilot program has been conducted over

the past 12 months. 40 Mental Health Nurses participated in the program. The pilot program has been evaluated and it is anticipated that there will be the 'roll-out' of the program across the state.

The clinical supervision program offered in tandem with clinical governance, offers a real prospect for cultural reform and transformation in selected mental health services

by putting in place approaches and structures for collaborative working and learning together whilst at the same time offering a mechanism of formalised support for mental health nurses to ensure quality service provision. For further information contact Barrie Trevarrow by e-mail to barrie.trevarrow@health.sa.gov.au.

Community Health Nurses and Community Mental Health Nurses ...

The project has moved onto the next stage, which is trialling the workload model in a range of multi-disciplinary settings across South Australia for a six week period of time. The trial commenced in April 2007.

The model seeks to address three aspects of workload. The first is the need for transparency in terms of case load numbers across services and regions; the second is to ensure this load is not unduly high, and the third

deals with workload intensity. For further information contact the project manager Luisa Toffoli on telephone (08) 8201 3442 fax (08) 8276 1602 or email Luisa.Toffoli@flinders.edu.au.

Transition to Practice Program for Mental Health Nurses ...

Initial consultations have occurred with a broad range of stakeholders which include Directors of Nursing (MH), Nurse Educators, Staff Development Consultants, University lecturers and Peer Support Specialists to identify and assess the requirements for a

comprehensive Transition to Practice Program for Mental Health Nurses. A Working Party has been established to collaborate with expert clinicians in the development of the program. It is anticipated that the Program will provide a supportive framework for

transitioning Mental Health Nurses. For any further information regarding the Transition to Practice Program for Mental Health Nurses please contact simone.pal@health.sa.gov.au.