

Nursing and Midwifery Matters

What matters to you, matters to us

Welcome to the October 2011 edition of the nursing and midwifery newsletter.

Since the last newsletter there have been some significant changes in the Department of Health with the introduction of a new structure which comprises eight Divisions. The new structure has been introduced to create a responsive department which will be fully equipped to respond to future challenges and to establish the performance responsibilities of the department in the context of the establishment of the five Local Health Networks.

The Nursing and Midwifery Office – the Office of the Chief Nurse is now part of the newly formed Health Reform Division which is head by Executive Director Dr David Panter. This new division will:



- Develop the change management framework for the implementation of the SA Health Care Plan
- Ensure effective change management processes are in place across SA Health to deliver the Government's health reform agenda.
- Coordinate the delivery of New RAH, SA Health and Medical Research Institute and Glenside projects
- Provide leadership for medical, nursing, allied health and scientific professionals across SA Health
- Ensure clinician, consumer and other stakeholder engagement regarding health reform, led by Chief Nurse, Chief Medical officer and Chief Allied Health Advisor
- Influence and support education providers in line with the Government's health reform agenda.

Health reform is fundamental to ensuring the health care system is responsive to the changing Australian community's health requirements and evidence based practice innovation. Nurses and Midwives have a significant leadership role in the design and development, implementation and evaluation of health reform. The Nursing and Midwifery Office will continue to be responsible for the provision of professional leadership and change management for the nursing and midwifery professions by developing, implementing and monitoring policies, initiatives and strategies to ensure optimal nursing and midwifery practice and services within the South Australian health system in line with the government's health reforms.

Regards Debra



The Advanced Skills Enrolled Nurse role.

The Nursing/Midwifery (SA Public Sector) Enterprise Agreement 2010 provides for the Advanced Skills Enrolled Nurse translation into the South Australian nursing and midwifery career structure. The Advanced Skills Enrolled Nurse (ASEN) is a merit based appointment as determined and required by the health unit/service. The Advanced Skills Enrolled Nurse classification is operative from 1 December 2011.

ASEN Implementation Toolkit

The Nursing and Midwifery Office has developed a Toolkit is designed to assist health service/units to facilitate the successful implementation of ASEN role across the South Australian public sector health service. The Toolkit for Implementation of the ASEN role in South Australia has been released for consultation. A feedback template has been developed and your feedback and comments should be forwarded to Bernie Cummins at bernadette.cummins@health.sa.gov.au by COB 20th October 2011.

Nurse Practitioner Scholarships are now open

The Nurse Practitioner Scholarship and Support Scheme is an initiative of the South Australia's Government supporting registered nurses to undertake additional study required to become Nurse Practitioners.

SA Health's response, to the election commitment by State Government's Every Patient – Every Service policy offers scholarships aligned with SA Health's Reform Agenda.

Application dates and how to apply

The second round of the Nurse Practitioner Scholarship and Support Scheme will open on 10 October 2011 and close on 25 November 2011.

Please note: Late applications will not be accepted.

The application form and guidelines are available to download from the nursing and midwifery website www.nursingsa.com.

Criteria

- Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Registered nurses working at an advanced level
- Holds a current practicing certificate with NMBA and a substantive (ongoing) position within SA Health
- Enrolled or intend to enrol in a master's degree, approved by the NMBA for endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner, at an Australian tertiary institution in 2012.

Funding will be available for students for all course fees and relevant costs associated with undertaking studies (i.e. prescribed text books; for rural students: travel, accommodation and clinical placements (if required); and for grant funded organisations: clinical placements (if required)).

If you require further information please contact the Scholarship Coordinator:

Jane Knight
Nursing and Midwifery Office
Department of Health
Phone: 8226 5882
Email: jane.knight@health.sa.gov.au

Changes to the South Australian Controlled Substances Legislation

Some amendments to the *South Australian Controlled Substances Act 1984 (the Act)* and the regulations under the Act came into operation on 1 July 2011. The changes to the Act and regulations that are of particular relevance to nurses and midwives take account of national registration of health practitioners and the ability of national health practitioner registration boards under section 94 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* to endorse the registration of a registered health practitioner as qualified to prescribe, supply or administer scheduled medicines (a scheduled medicines endorsement).

The effect of these changes is:

- A nurse whose registration under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law is endorsed as being qualified to practise as a nurse practitioner is authorised to prescribe, supply or administer Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 drugs.
- A midwife whose registration is endorsed with a scheduled medicines endorsement is authorised to prescribe Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 drugs. These midwives are permitted to prescribe the drugs listed in regulation 20 of the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011. The drugs are those that authorised midwives are permitted to prescribe under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

The requirement under section 18A of the Act to hold a Ministerial authority to prescribe or supply extended treatment with a drug of dependence, or to prescribe or supply a drug of dependence for a person who is known to be drug dependent, applies to a nurse practitioner or midwife whose registration is endorsed with a scheduled medicines endorsement.

Additional information about the changes to the Controlled Substances legislation is available at <http://www.health.sa.gov.au/Default.aspx?tabid=745>.

Queries about the changes to the Controlled Substances legislation can be directed to Liz Hender, Manager Legislation (telephone 8204 1942 or e-mail elizabeth.hender@health.sa.gov.au).

The Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Agency

The following information relates to the Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) and is accurate as at the time of publication.

Nursing and Midwifery Registration Standard

On application to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) for registration and on annual application for renewal of registration to practice nurses and midwives commit to

compliance with the requirement Nursing and Midwifery Registration Standards. Nurse and Midwives are obliged to have knowledge of these standards when they undertake the self declaration on application or renewal of their registration.

Nursing and Midwifery Recency of Practice Registration Standard

This standard outlines the requirements for nurses and midwives in relation to recency of practice.

These include:

- Nurses and midwives must have undertaken sufficient practice to demonstrate competence in their professions within the preceding five years.
- Nurses and midwives who are returning to practice after a break of more than five years must satisfactorily complete a program or assessment process that is approved by the Board.

To meet the requirement of sufficient practice nurses and midwives must have; *'practice in their profession within the past five years for a period equivalent to a minimum of three months full time.'* To review this standard click [here](#).

Health services are responsible for reviewing evidence of recency of practice, in line with the requirements of the standard, during the application process for nursing and midwifery positions.

The Revised English Language Skills Registration Standard

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's revised [English language skills registration standard](#) were effective from 19 September 2011.

To support the implementation of the new standard, the Board has determined a number of transition provisions for students and applicants who have submitted their application to AHPRA which are detailed in the Revised English language skills registration standard [Fact Sheet and FAQs](#) published on the NMBA website.

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Position Statements

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia approves all position statements to provide guidance to the professions. These also help to clarify our views and expectations on a range of issues.

On the 2nd September 2011 the NMBA released a position statement on the ***'Role of the registered midwife in private practice when the woman is admitted to a health service as a public patient.'*** This statement clarifies the NMBA position on registered midwives in private practice, when the women they are caring for are admitted to a health service as public patients. All midwives need to be aware of the requirements of this position statement to ensure they do not work in breach of the related NMBA registration standards. To access the NMBA position statement click [here](#).

Prescribing Formulary for Eligible Midwives with a Scheduled Medicines Endorsement

On 12 September 2011 the NMBA published the [Nursing and Midwifery National Prescribing Formulary for Midwives](#).

The Board has approved the lists of schedule 4, schedule 8 and intravenous medicines (below) for prescribing by eligible midwives with a scheduled medicines endorsement.

Eligible midwives with endorsement to prescribe scheduled medicine will not be able to utilise this prescribing formulary until the relevant states and territories legislation is amended to recognise the NMBA Nursing and Midwifery National Prescribing Formulary for Midwives.

How do I contact the AHPRA or NMBA?

The Australia Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has an office in South Australia.

Office Location

Level 8, 121 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000

General enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)

Office hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
For up to date information visit the NMBA

website: www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/.

Upcoming events and conferences

UniSA Mental Health Master Class for general Nurses and Midwives

Mental Health care is advancing – are you?

UniSA's School of Nursing and Midwifery presents a free Mental Health Master Class for general Nurses and Midwives working in hospitals, GP practices, residential care or community settings.

To be held on **Tuesday, 29 November 2011, 6.00pm–9.00pm** at **UniSA City East, Centenary Building, Room C3-16**

Co-presented by Professor Nicholas Procter PhD, MBA RN, Chair: Mental Health Nursing and Michael Merritt RN, MNurSc (NP), Nurse Practitioner and Teaching Fellow: Mental Health.

To find out more click [here](#)

AUSMED Educational Programs

AUSMED offer a wide range of two day educational programs for nurses and midwives which are endorsed by the Royal College of Nursing Australia and equate to 10.5 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

To find out more visit

<http://www.ausmedonline.com/Conferences/nursing-conferences.html>

For more information

Nursing and Midwifery Office
SA Health
PO Box 287 Rundle Mall
ADELAIDE 5000
Tel: 08 8226 0749
Fax: 08 8226 7602
Website: www.nursingsa.com
Email: nursing@health.sa.gov.au