



Nursing and Midwifery Matters

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

October/November 2007 Issue 3

Welcome to our third edition of the South Australian Nursing and Midwifery newsletter: **'Nursing and Midwifery Matters – what matters to you, matters to us'**.

Since my last note, I have been visiting with more nurses and midwives across South Australia. My travels have taken me to the Riverland, Barossa Valley, Clare and Yorke Peninsula. As I have been travelling I have been taking photographs of some of the nurses and midwives that I have had the honour of meeting. You will see some of

these photographs on the reverse side of the newsletter.

As I have been driving around South Australia, I have had the opportunity to understand the vastness of this state and the issues that rural and remote areas face in ensuring quality nursing and midwifery care is provided.

I was very excited to be asked to present at the Disability SA Conference in September and the SA Perioperative Nurses Association Conference in October.

I was delighted to have Sharon Olsson (the winner of name the newsletter competition) work with me recently. This was a great learning experience for both Sharon and myself and I am looking forward to working with Sharon for a day in the near future.

Jenny



Photo: Jenny Beutel

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

The key issues discussed at the September 2007 meeting were the following:

1. The ANZCCN is pleased to announce the formation of a Midwifery Advisors/Project Officers Network. The Network is auspiced by the Council and will provide the Council with strategic advice regarding Midwifery. This Network will complement the recently formed Mental Health Nursing Network. The Council looks forward to this strengthened capacity.

2. The ANZCCN reiterates its support for 2 regulated levels of nursing and the appropriate educational preparation and delivery commensurate with their scope of practice. Nurses educated in Australia are well prepared for practice in contemporary health care environments and are highly regarded internationally.

3. The ANZCCN welcomes the establishment of a National Health Workforce Taskforce. The ANZCCN looks forward to working with and making a valuable contribution to HWPC/the taskforce. The Council is finalising 2 projects arising out of N3ET that are to be reported to HWPC and anticipates undertaking further work for HWPC/the taskforce as opportunities arise.

2008 SA Public Sector Enrolled, Registered & Mental Health Nursing and Midwifery Scholarships ...

Nursing and Midwifery Office is committed to building a valued and sustainable nursing and midwifery workforce. Scholarships are awarded to Enrolled Nurses, Registered Nurses, Mental Health Nurses and Midwives who have a strong commitment to future and continued professional practice in metropolitan and country areas.

Who Can Apply:

Registered Nurses, Mental Health Nurses and Midwives wanting to undertake Post Graduate Clinical studies. Enrolled Nurses

wanting to do Enrolled Nursing (Post Enrolment), Advanced Diploma, undergraduate nursing studies (for first year of studies).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Not receiving funding support through any other scholarship;
- Holds a substantive (ongoing) position and is currently working as a nurse, or midwife within SA Public Health Sector;
- Seeks to develop knowledge and skills in contemporary nursing or midwifery practice – focus on advanced clinical

practice; and

- Support and endorsement from the health unit's Director of Nursing/and Midwifery.

Guidelines and application forms are available at www.nursingsa.com/office_scholarships.php.

For more information please contact Marcia Hakendorf by telephone: 8226 6370 or by email: Marcia.Hakendorf@health.sa.gov.au.

Please note that applications close **Friday, 11 January 2008**.

Staffing Methodology Equalisation Tool for Mental Health Nurses ...

As part of the Nurses/Midwives (South Australian Public Sector) Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2004 it was agreed that work be undertaken to "Review of Workloads and staffing methodologies in community and community mental health areas".

A research team from Flinders University headed by Associate Professor Eileen Willis conducted the work for this project. Trialling of the model commenced in April 2007 following extensive education sessions with a

number of teams/services.

The following four teams agreed to trial the model for a period of six weeks Ongoing Clinical Support Team, Salisbury; Adult Community Mental Health Service, Felixstow; Community Treatment Team, Port Adelaide; and South East Area Regional Health Service, Mt Gambier.

A forum was held on 3 October to provide an opportunity for clinicians, management,

Department's ICT representatives and ANF representative and other interested people to hear from the Research team, the findings of the Final Report. Forty-three participants attended the 2-hour session, which was met with a high degree of satisfaction with the pilot project.

For further information, please contact Marcia Hakendorf by e-mail at marcia.hakendorf@health.sa.gov.au.



First Nurse Practitioner Authorised to Prescribe from an Approved Formulary ...

The Nurses Board of South Australia was recently pleased to announce that Nurse Practitioner Tracy Semmler-Booth (Mental Health Perinatal) who works at Central Northern Adelaide Health Service - Lyell McEwen Hospital has become the first Nurse Practitioner in South Australia to receive authorisation to prescribe an approved formulary.

Congratulations Tracy on this momentous achievement and we acknowledge her assistance in piloting the new process.

It is recognised that this outcome has been the result of substantial consultation and collaboration with a range of stakeholders over a long period of time. The nbsa has worked jointly with the Nursing and Midwifery Office

of the Department of Health to achieve Nurse Practitioner prescribing.

For Information and Application forms please visit the nbsa website at www.nursesboard.sa.gov.au/reg_np.html.

Congratulations Tracy.

NICS SA Health Nursing and Midwifery Fellowship ...

The National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS), in partnership with the South Australia Department of Health, recently offered a Fellowship for a future leader in nursing and/or midwifery to improve evidence-based health care in South Australia.

The Fellowship will provide the opportunity for a nurse and/or midwife to:

- undertake a practical project to improve the uptake of evidence into day to day clinical practice, and
- undertake a leadership role in the uptake of evidence in nursing and

midwifery practice in South Australia.

The first inaugural Fellowship recipient is currently finalising her project which proposes to improve the identification and management of osteoporosis in patients presenting to hospital with a low trauma wrist fracture.

Launch of an Emergency Nursing Role Progression Framework ...

The Lyell McEwen Hospital has launched a new Emergency Nurses (RN) Role Progression Framework which will develop and promote a high level critical and clinical nursing knowledge and skills across the whole of their emergency nursing workforce.

The aim is to develop a framework that is consistent, reliable, evidence based, transparent in application to all staff and transferable. Lyell McEwen Hospital (LMH) anticipate that the new framework will provide all emergency nurses with a greater knowledge base from which to practice, will assist with clinical risk management and increase recruitment and retention.

The **College of Emergency Nursing Australasia – SA Branch** launched in early 2007 a SA Emergency Nurse Educators Forum which will promote dialogue and exchange of ideas across a broad spectrum of worksites, including university emergency nurse educators.

For further information contact either Cathi Montague (Clinical Nurse, LMH Emergency Department) Cathi.Montague@nwhs.sa.gov.au or Gwen Rowan (Emergency Nurse Educator, LMH) Gwen.Rowan@nwhs.sa.gov.au.

Upcoming Nursing and Midwifery Conferences ...

2007 Joanna Briggs International Convention **Pebbles of Knowledge: Evidence for Excellence** will be held at the Hyatt Regency Adelaide, South Australia on 26-28 November 2007. **Early Bird Registration is available now** at www.joannabriggs.edu.au/events/2007Convention.

Heart Foundation Nurse Ambassador

Become a Heart Foundation Nurse Ambassador. Are you a South Australian nurse wanting to update your knowledge and develop skills and confidence to improve cardiovascular health outcomes in your work place? Then apply to become a Heart Foundation Nurse Ambassador in 2008.

For further information, including a flier and application form visit www.heartfoundation.org.au/Get_Involved/What's_On/South_Australia.htm

Please note that applications close **23 November 2007**.

Mental Health Bill 2007 — Out for Comment ...

The Mental Health Bill 2007 has been released for public comment. The Bill reflects the Bidmeade Report recommendations which were based on extensive stakeholder input during the [Review of Mental Health Legislation in South Australia](#).

The draft legislation outlines a number of positive changes to improve the existing *Mental Health Act 1993* and reflects national and international obligations for the protection of persons with mental illness.

A copy of the *Mental Health Bill 2007*, an Explanatory Guide, Frequently Asked

Questions (FAQs) and other information about the Bill can be found at www.health.sa.gov.au/mentalhealth/.

Please ensure that your comments regarding the Bill **are forward** to the Mental Health Unit, Department of Health **by Tuesday, 20 November 2007**.

Safer Conversations Pilot Project ...

Safer Conversations is a pilot project sponsored by the Department of Health and the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner. The aim of the project is to 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 health care.

Information about the progress of the project is available in Safer Conversations Bulletin No. 2, now available on the HCSCC website at www.hcsc.sa.gov.au.



Photos from Jenny Beutel's country tours....