



Nursing and Midwifery Matters

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

December 2007— Issue 4

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

As the Director of Nursing, CNAHS Mental Health Service, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work as the acting Chief Nurse for the last few weeks. This

has reinforced for me the important role that the Chief Nurse and the Nursing and Midwifery Office play. The Chief Nurse, in collaboration with the Nursing and Midwifery Office team, provides professional support and leadership to the nursing and midwifery professions and is an effective interface between

the Department of Health, key stakeholders and Health Units.

As I return to my role in Mental Health, I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

Alan Scarborough

Nursing and Midwifery Career Structure ...

The Nursing and Midwifery Career Structure was endorsed for introduction with the final approval of the Nurses/Midwives (South Australian Public Sector) Enterprise Agreement 2007 on 2 November 2007.

To facilitate the implementation of the Career Structure, the Department of Health in conjunction with the Australian Nursing Federation (SA Branch) have formed the Career Structure Implementation Central

Guidance Group. In addition a Principal Project Nurse (Career Structure Implementation) was appointed in November 2007.

Some of the type of work being undertaken is the development of:

- Generic Job and Person Specifications of the Clinical Nurse/Midwife and Associate Clinical Services Coordinator roles;
- Guidelines for Personal Reclassification

- to Clinical Nurse/Midwife level 2; and
- First edition of a regular newsletter *'Career Structure and You'* for Nurses and Midwives to provide updated information on the Career Structure Implementation.

If you would like more information, please contact Julie Brown by:
Telephone 8226 6333 or by
E-mail: Julie.Brown2@health.sa.gov.au

SA Nursing and Midwifery Practice Bill 2008 ...

The *Nursing and Midwifery Practice Bill 2008* has been released for public comment. The Bill is designed to maintain a robust framework that keeps pace with contemporary nursing and midwifery practice. Developments within the nursing and midwifery professions have resulted in the need to update the *Nurses Act 1999*. These developments include the recognition and registration of midwives separately from nurses which ensures that South Australia is consistent with other Australian states and territories. With a changing workforce, the role of nurse practitioner is becoming more important for the provision of health care to the community. The Bill recognises nurse practitioners within the provisions and protects the title of

Nurse Practitioner. The *Nursing and Midwifery Practice Bill 2008* also allows for the registration of nursing and midwifery students.

A copy of the *Nursing and Midwifery Practice Bill 2008* and *Frequently Asked Questions* can be found on the Department of Health website at www.health.sa.gov.au.

Comments are to be provided to the Department of Health by **Sunday, 20 January 2008**.

The preferred method of feedback is by e-mail to nursing&midwiferypracticebill@health.sa.gov.au

Enrolled Nursing at the Ceduna Health Service ...

Eight Aboriginal people commenced the Diploma in Enrolled Nursing in Ceduna on Monday, 5 November 2007. This program has been the initiative of the Ceduna Health Service/Aboriginal Education & Employment Services, wider DFEEST and Complete Personal and has involved obtaining extra funding to ensure the participants have the support they require to ensure a successful outcome. These support structures could not have been achieved without this multi-agency collaboration.

Mr David Giles, an Aboriginal Registered Nurse in Ceduna, will be the prime lecturer for this program. David has been seconded for the duration of this program and is

supported by Mr Andrew Lane (CEO) and Ms Tanya Wolf A/DON Ceduna Health Service.

Through the work of Ms Marg Mibus (AEES) and Mr Ian Hodgson an additional \$122,000 has been raised, and 'in-kind' support for numeracy and literacy is to be delivered by Ceduna TAFE. Aboriginal Employment Programs have funded the required nursing books, work shoes and nursing watches for the students.

Participants have been initially employed as 'nursing aids' which will assist in alleviating some of the financial pressures and to allow the students to concentrate on their studies



Photo: Diploma in Enrolled Nursing Students and Lecturer

over the next 18 months.

Thank you to those who have been involved in this initiative and we wish the students every success with their studies.



Statewide Clinical Networks ...

Statewide Clinical Networks have been established to increase the level of clinicians' involvement in the planning of health services, to find ways to better coordinate delivery of those services, to ensure better health outcomes for all South Australians and to ensure a strong, sustainable health workforce. *Statewide Clinical Networks – A Framework for Delivering Best Practice Health Care*, released May 2007, is one of the SA Government's strategies underpinning South Australia's Health Care Plan.

The Networks aim to ensure services across all clinical groups are provided on a networked basis to facilitate skill acquisition, maintenance, recruitment, and retention of clinical staff, and to improve service quality and patient safety. The Networks link doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, GPs and community representatives to work together better to assist in fully integrating

service provision across hospital sites and primary health care services. The first Networks are Cardiology, Cancer, Child Health, Maternal and Neonatal, Mental Health, Orthopaedic, Rehabilitation and Renal and these Networks are expected to deliver a clinical service plan by 30 June 2008.

Want to know more? Visit the Statewide Clinical Networks website: www.health.sa.gov.au/clinicalnetworks.

If you would like more information on the Statewide Clinical Networks, or details of how you can participate, please contact the Statewide Clinical Networks Project Team:

Email: clinicalnetworks@health.sa.gov.au

Telephone: Kendall Goldsmith (08) 8226 6628 or
Amelia O'Hara (08) 8226 6452.

New Clinical Nursing and Midwifery Information System ...

As part of the State Government's commitment to health reform, Cabinet has approved capital expenditure to replace SA Department of Health's outdated nursing and midwifery system, ExcelCare, which has been operational since 1993/94.

It is expected that the new nursing and midwifery system will be operational by late 2009 across SA public hospitals.

For a number of years, the nursing and midwifery community have eagerly awaited a new system to assist them in the delivery of evidence-based practice and quality care.

The new system will assist nurses and midwives make quick, informed decisions on the healthcare needs of their patients, particularly in the areas of patient care planning, quality management of care, patient acuity and nursing and midwifery

workforce utilisation. It will also benefit patients as information from across the major public hospital system becomes immediately available to the staff treating them.

For further information on the introduction of the new system contact:

Trish Currie

Senior Nursing & Midwifery Project Officer
Telephone: 8226 6190

Email: patricia.currie@health.sa.gov.au.

Practice Development Projects Supported for 2007/2008 ...

The following Practice Development Projects have been selected for 2007/2008 and have specific ongoing benefit to the retention of nurses and midwives in the workplace. They have been designed for sustainability, have a team approach, bring about efficiency and improved practice and are evidence based.

Project Title: Clinical Supervision Program for the Disability SA Nursing Workforce

Submitted by: Disability SA

Objective: To develop and implement a clinical supervision program for nursing workforce of Disability SA.

Project Title: Nursing works - Round Two

Submitted by: FMC

Objective: Use Lean methodology; support redesigning nursing work to improve patient safety and quality of nursing practice.

Project Title: Infection Control E-learning Package

Submitted by: CYWHS & RGH

Objective: Finalise the Infection Control E-learning Tool and release the package so it is accessible state-wide.

Project Title: Better Assessment Leading to Better Care of the Older Person

Submitted by: LMH, RAH, TQEH, Modbury, Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre.

Objective: Up-skill CNC's in advanced assessment of patients with a specific focus on the older person thereby extending the role to an advanced clinical practice role in the clinical setting.

Project Title: Unit Based Clinical Educators

Submitted by: Glenside Mental Health Services

Objective: Pilot an education program for unit level nurses (intensive & acute, rehabilitation and aged care) to determine the best learning model for the service.

Project Title: Midwifery Education for Country Midwives

Submitted by: Country Health SA

Objective: Implement the recommendations from the Project 'Connecting Midwives' thus improving and enhancing current midwives practice and knowledge.

Project Title: Nurse Lead Emergency Education for Rural Nurses' & Midwives

Submitted by: Country Health SA

Objective: Implementation a consistent first line nurse/midwife lead emergency care education course across Country SA.

2008 Public Sector Enrolled, Registered & Mental Health Nursing & 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 country and metropolitan areas.

Eligibility criteria, 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**.

