



Nursing and Midwifery Matters

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

March 2008—Issue 7

Welcome to the second edition of the South Australian Nursing and Midwifery newsletter for 2008. It has been refreshing to have the cooler temperatures and rain that is so desperately needed.

I have had the opportunity to meet with many nursing and midwifery groups so far this year, such as the SA Division of General Practice Nurses; the Aged Care Association; and Helping Hand Aged Care. I have also met with Monica McEvoy and Tim Crowley (Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Candidates—Northern CAMHS) who gave an account of work practice environment and initiatives they have actively facilitated as part of their role.

I would like to thank the nurses and midwives who have been actively involved in many of the major projects and initiatives in South Australia. It is a very exciting and progressive time for the professions and I look forward to continue to work with you to implement these projects and initiatives.

As you may be aware the Federal Government has developed and advertised the position of a National Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer. The Federal Government has also commenced the, 'Bringing Nurses Back into the Workforce' initiative. Further information is available at www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-nurse-backnurse. The Department of Health is

working closely with all stakeholders including Nursing and Midwifery Leaders on the development process and implementation of this initiative.

Plans for the International Midwives and Nurses week celebrations are in progress which includes the Symposium (5 May) and Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards Dinner (9 May). Across South Australia, health services are celebrating the pivotal role of nurses and midwives during this week.

Regards
Jenny



Photo: Jenny Beutel

Career Structure Implementation Project ...

The introduction of the new Nursing and Midwifery (South Australian Public Sector) Career Structure is an exciting time for the Nursing and Midwifery professions in South Australia as this provides great opportunities for increasing professional recognition, advancing clinical practice, alignment with professional pathways and growing our professional knowledge base.

The Nursing and Midwifery Career Structure is in the process of implementation and the Career Structure Implementation Central Guidance Group has developed and endorsed *The Guiding Principles for Implementation* which includes details of each phase of implementation and timeframes for completion.

These Guiding Principles and all information

relevant to the implementation of the Career Structure can be located on the Nursing and Midwifery Office website www.nursingsa.com and it is encouraged that all Nurses and Midwives access this information and get involved in the process of implementation.

For further information please contact Julie Brown, Principal Project Nurse by e-mail to Julie.Brown2@health.sa.gov.au

South Australian Department of Health Research Compendium ...

The Nursing and Midwifery Office is producing a compendium of current nursing and midwifery research and innovation in South Australia (SA).

It is important to recognise the role of various forms of research and inquiry for clinical practice innovation and evaluation and for the development of nursing and midwifery knowledge. The Nursing and Midwifery Office is keen to identify grass-

roots research in SA that is relevant to nurses, midwives, other health professionals and healthcare managers.

There are clinicians who undertake research as a part of their post graduate studies and many clinical settings have undertaken Practice Development and Action Research. Much of this work is currently uncollated and difficult to access.

The Compendium is an effort to make

research outcomes more easily available to nurses and midwives across South Australia. It is hoped that the first Compendium will be launched in May 2008 to cover research/projects undertaken in South Australia by nurses and midwives in 2006/2007. Each year a new Compendium will be published - so plan ahead for 2009!

For further information contact Robyn Parkes by e-mail to robyn.parkes@health.sa.gov.au.

2008 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards ...

The Department of Health, in conjunction with industry partners, invites you to attend the 2008 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards dinner that is being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Friday, 9 May 2008.

Tickets cost \$80 which includes meal, entertainment, drinks and lucky ticket prizes.

To purchase a ticket, please contact Naomi by either:

Telephone: 8226 0749

E-mail: naomi.ninyette@health.sa.gov.au

GET IN EARLY as tickets are limited.

Please note: **Ticket sales close 5pm Friday, 24 April 2008.**



Photo: 2007 Award Recipients

Statewide Rehabilitation Clinical Network ...

The Statewide Rehabilitation Clinical Network has progressively be developing their Service Plan over the past few months, including holding forums, workgroup meetings and completion of a 6 month work-plan. To receive a regular newsletter or for further information, please contact Karen Brown by Telephone (08) 8275 1924 or e-mail karen.brown@rgh.sa.gov.au

Safe Conduct & Respectful Behaviour Taskforce ...

SA Health is committed to ensuring that employee wellbeing and safety is a core workforce value and priority. The SA Health Safety Strategy, outlined in the Portfolio Implementation Plan highlights a focus on developing innovative and effective strategies that address psychological injury and client aggression (http://in.health.sa.gov.au/wc/Portals/0/Health_PIP_07Dec_Tandem_v14.pdfcompressed.pdf). These initiatives are supported by the Minister for Health who has established the Safe Conduct and Respectful Behaviour Taskforce. There are multiple working groups as part of the Taskforce whose membership covers the workplace, industrial organisations and the Department of Health.

The Taskforce aims to review the effectiveness and consistency of the current practices in the healthcare setting and develop state-wide policy and procedures for standardisation.

For further information please contact Gabrielle Warner, Project Officer, Workforce Development on (08) 8226 6548 or Gabrielle.warner@health.sa.gov.au.



Update: Clinical Nursing and Midwifery Information System Project ...

The objective of this project is to replace the current ExcelCare System. The business objectives are to provide stronger capability in the following areas: Patient Assessment; Nursing and Midwifery Care Planning and Documentation of Care; Patient Acuity; Quality Management; Service Improvement; Resource Calculation; and Reporting.

Sydney-based company Emerging Health Solutions has won the contract to develop the system, which will be web-based and is expected to be up and running in SA public hospitals by the end of 2009. (The system is currently in use at St Vincent's Public and St Vincent's Private Hospital, NSW).

www.emerginghealthsolutions.com.au/

The new Clinical Nursing and Midwifery Information System (CN&MIS) will be part of a state-wide integrated electronic health record called **careconnectsa**, and will directly link nursing and midwifery clinical

information, to the patient's electronic health records across the state. The system will also provide faster access to the health histories of patients and effect more responsive and informed treatment by utilising electronic clinical decision support tools.

The system will be centrally configured and managed using agreed Enterprise Wide Functional Requirements, Business Rules and Business processes. Opportunities for nurses and midwives to participate in the standardisation of care guidelines, work practices and clinical performance indicators throughout our public hospitals are being developed. To facilitate a multidisciplinary collaborative approach, the CN&MIS Project Board has been formed to provide governance over the project.

In addition, the State-wide Advisory Working Group (SAWG) has been formed with representation from all regions. The SAWG is multidisciplinary with membership

comprised of Clinical Nursing/Midwifery, Functional Support Nursing/Midwifery, ANF, Allied Health and Safety and Quality Representatives.

The new Clinical Nursing and Midwifery Information System is expected to be tested and piloted at one metropolitan and one country hospital by mid to late 2008. The sites as agreed by the project board are Lyell McEwin Hospital and Port Augusta Hospital & Health Service.

It is expected that the new nursing and midwifery system will be operational by late 2009 across SA public hospitals. Additional information regarding membership of the Project Board and SAWG will be provided in the next newsletter or by contacting:

Trish Currie

Senior Nursing & Midwifery Project Officer

Telephone: (08) 8226 6190

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

TOPIC7— The Older Person and Improving Care at Royal Adelaide Hospital ...

In July 2007, the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Nursing Executive endorsed the concept of Care of the Older Person as a major focus for the nursing Safety and Quality Program for 2008. The RAH Nurses Education Fund has sponsored Professor Alison Kitson from the UK to oversee a project to improve the journey of the older person, known as **TOPIC7 - The Older Person and Improving Care**.

Seven topics were identified by Clinical Service Coordinators and include the following:

1. Pain Management;
2. Clinical Assessment;
3. Path Best Travelled – signage/access

- distance from one area to another;
- 4. Management of the Confused Patient;
- 5. Nutrition;
- 6. Prevention of Functional Decline/Mobility; and
- 7. Promoting Continence.

Whilst TOPIC7 is a nursing initiative, each team will comprise members from other health disciplines, ensuring the focus of improving the care of the elderly is a multi-disciplinary one.

The aim of TOPIC7 is to effect change throughout the RAH, and ultimately CNAHS, by improving the journey and the Care of the Older Person for the future. TOPIC7

will focus on several of the long term outcomes in the state plan including improving functionality with reduced disability, improving self management of chronic conditions, improving health longevity and improving access to alternative or 'out of hospital' based services.

Anyone interested in joining any of the Project teams or is wanting more information is encouraged to contact either Tammy Page on (08) 8222 5836 or Danni Marcoianni on (08) 8222 2803.

Pressure Ulcer Prevalence Survey ...

The Department of Health undertook a *Pressure Ulcer Prevalence Survey* during late 2006/early 2007. The findings of the Survey and a range of recommendations are described in the South Australian Pressure Ulcer Point Prevalence Survey Report 2007. A major recommendation from the Report

was the need to develop a business case in response to the Survey's recommendations which would allow analysis of the implementation of the recommendations, including some cost-benefit review and developing a list of priorities for action.

Broad stakeholder consultations will be

undertaken as part of the development of the business case.

The Department has engaged JA Projects Pty Ltd to develop the business case. For further information, contact Christy Pirone, 8226 6304 or JulieAnne Anderson, JA Projects on Ph: 0411 118888 or jaaproj@bigpond.net.au

Upcoming Events and Conferences ...

ANF (SA Branch) International Midwives & Nurses Days Celebrations

In recognition of International Midwives & Nurses Days, ANF (SA Branch) will host a celebratory breakfast on Monday, 12 May 2008 from 7.30 am at their new Ridleyton office. Guest speakers will include Dr Debbie Kralik and Ms Christine Cornwell who will highlight the valuable contribution made by nurses and midwives in community settings. Book early as seats are limited. More details can be obtained from www.sa.anf.org.au

CSHISC Making A Difference...2008 Conference

The Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CSHISC) titled **Making A Difference...2008** Conference will be held on 15-16 October 2008 at the Adelaide Hilton in South Australia. Register your interest at www.cshisc.com.au/conference/

3rd National Conference for Emergency Nurses titled **Networking: Crossing borders** will be held 28 – 30 August 2008 at the Sheraton Perth Hotel, Western Australia. Registration forms and further information is available at www.cdesigne.com.au/cena2008

National Forum on Safety and Quality in Health Care is being held 29-31 October 2008 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Please contact Annabel Holliss with any questions by telephone to (08) 8274 6050 or by e-mail to aholliss@sapmea.asn.au. Registration forms and further information is available at www.sapmea.asn.au/conventions/forumsqhc2008/index.html

RCNA's 'Celebrating Professional Excellence in Nursing' is being held on 25—27 September 2008 in Perth, Western Australia. Information can be obtained by contact Emma Rice, Events Administrator on 1 800 061 660 or conference@rcna.org.au

