



# Nursing and Midwifery Matters

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

## December 2007—Christmas Issue

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

2007 has been a year of many changes and opportunities for nursing and midwifery across South Australia. The Nursing and Midwifery Office team has worked closely with professional colleagues and partners during 2007 to develop and enhance our professional capabilities.

As you would have read in previous editions of the **'Nursing and Midwifery Matters'** newsletter you will be aware of the many projects the Nursing and Midwifery Office team, have planned, developed, implemented and, with some projects, will continue to work on throughout 2008 in conjunction with our colleagues. Some of the key projects (both current and new) include:

- Strategic Direction document *'Delivering the Future: Building a valued and sustainable nursing and midwifery workforce 2008 – 2011'*;
- Development of a SA Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy;
- Public Sector Career Structure

- Review and implementation;
- 2007 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards and preparation for 2008;
- Development of Nurse Practitioner Formulary;
- Statewide implementation of the Mental Health Clinical Supervision program;
- SA Nursing and Midwifery Practice Bill 2008;
- Review of the Nurse Practitioner Framework;
- Formation of the SA Nursing and Midwifery Research Collaborative, and its continuing development;
- Development of a Research, Practice Development Compendium;
- Review of the Nursing and Midwifery Agency Panel;
- Review of the Nursing and Midwifery Teaching Grant;
- Clinical Nursing and Midwifery Information System (ExcelCare Replacement);
- Development of indicators potentially sensitive to nursing and midwifery practice;
- Development of a Workforce

- Continuing Education Framework;
- SA Public Sector Enrolled, Registered & Mental Health Nursing And Midwifery Scholarships 2008 and the SA Nursing and Midwifery Premier's Scholarships for 2007/2008;
- Ongoing Development of Practice Opportunities for Experiential learning; and
- Nursing and Midwifery NICS Fellowship.

During 2008 I have many more visits planned in both country and metropolitan areas and I look forward to meeting with you so that we can continue to build a workforce that is valued for its excellence in practice.

On behalf of the Nursing and Midwifery Office team (Debra, Marcia, Robyn, Shane, Heather, Julie, Margaret, Holly and Erminia), I wish you and your family seasons greetings and a safe 2008.

Regards  
Jenny



Photo: Jenny Beutel

## Aboriginal Nursing & Midwifery Update ...

The Nursing and Midwifery Office is in the process of receiving final feedback on South Australia's *'Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy 2008—2011'*. This document will be aligned to the 'Strategic Direction document *'Delivering the Future: Building a valued and sustainable nursing and midwifery workforce 2008 – 2011'* document.

A strong interest has been received from around the State (such as Gawler, Quorn and Millicent) regarding Aboriginal EN Cadetships. It is also anticipated that 5 undergraduate students will graduate this year from Uni SA and Flinders University as Registered Nurses or Registered Midwives.

For more information on the Strategy document or Aboriginal nursing and midwifery, please contact Shane Mohor:

Telephone (08) 8226 6322; or by  
E-mail to [shane.mohor@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:shane.mohor@health.sa.gov.au)

## Upcoming Conferences ...

### National Forum on Safety and Quality in Health Care

The Call for Abstracts for the National Forum on Safety and Quality in Health Care is now available on the conference website at [www.sapmea.asn.au/forumsqhc2008](http://www.sapmea.asn.au/forumsqhc2008)

Submissions close on Monday, **3 March 2008**.

Please contact Annabel Holliss with any questions by telephone to (08) 8274 6050 or by e-mail to [aholliss@sapmea.asn.au](mailto:aholliss@sapmea.asn.au)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference for Emergency Nurses

The Call for abstracts for the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference for Emergency Nurses are now available at the conference website at [www.cdeshign.com.au/cena2008](http://www.cdeshign.com.au/cena2008)

Applications are being sought under the areas of clinical, leadership, management

and education in selected sub-themes. Please note that the submissions are due Friday, **29 February 2008**.

The conference is titled **Networking: Crossing borders** and will be held 28 – 30 August 2008 at the Sheraton Perth Hotel, Western Australia.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Australasian Redesigning Health Care Summit

The conference is titled **continuously improving the patient journey** and is being held 5-6 March 2008 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, Victoria.

Please note that the Early Bird Registration deadline is 1 February, 2008.

Registration forms and further information is available at [www.redesignhealth2008.org](http://www.redesignhealth2008.org)



## Mental Health Nursing Programs ...

The Nursing and Midwifery Office, Mental Health Nursing Leaders Forum and Advisory Group have been instrumental in initiating a number of programs for mental health nurses over the past 18 months such as:

### Clinical Supervision - continuing state-wide Implementation June 2007-2008:

- Database development;
- Workshops;
- Policy development; and
- Infrastructure support to maintain sustainability.

### Scholarships:

Over the past 2 years the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing course has seen an increase of 100% in the uptake of scholarships. It is anticipated that the number of applications will once again increase for 2008.

### Marketing:

The marketing strategy aligns with Nursing and Midwifery workforce strategy targeting Mental Health Nurses.

### Mental Health Assessment Tool – A Step by Step Approach CD-ROM:

All mental health services received the

package which included a student's workbook and facilitator's guide to an effective mental health assessment. The package is a valuable resource for front-line staff, undergraduate students and the new graduate.

### Development of Transition to Practice Program MHN:

The development of this program is designed for "new graduates" entering their first year of mental health nursing. It is envisaged that the program will provide information on the core components of a structured 46 week program. The package consists of three modules inclusive of program overview, outline and resource tool kit. It is anticipated that the program will be implemented in 2008.

### Annual Practice Summit:

Since 2006 there have been 3 successful summits for mental health nurses to show-case innovative models of care to their colleagues as well as providing a forum for networking and sharing of professional ideas.

### Crucial Conversations Pilot Project:

As part of the pilot project the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner

provided skill training to 15 Mental Health Nurses Level 2 & 3.

### Staffing Methodology Equalisation Tool (SMET):

As part of the Enterprise Bargaining (EB) Agreement 2004-2007 a joint initiative was undertaken by Nursing and Midwifery Office and Australian Nursing Federation (ANF). In 2007 a pilot project was undertaken with a number of sites participating. As part of the new EB requirements, a business case is currently being developed.

### Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program:

In 2008 workshop are planned to provide support for Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Candidates (MHNPC) in their preparation of acquiring authorisation, Nurse Practitioner status, from the Nurses Board of South Australia.

### Practice Development Grants:

Practice development grants have been allocated to health services for the development of new initiatives to enhance mental health nursing practice.

For further information, please contact Marcia Hakendorf by e-mail to [Marcia.Hakendorf@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:Marcia.Hakendorf@health.sa.gov.au)



## Career Structure Implementation Project ...

The 2007 South Australian Public Sector Nursing and Midwifery career structure provides professional recognition and financial remuneration for nurses and midwives through classifications that acknowledge clinical achievement and professional contribution.

Up-to-date information on the progress of the implementation of the new Career Structure is available at [www.nursingsa.com/prof\\_career.php](http://www.nursingsa.com/prof_career.php)

### Career Structure and You - Newsletters

The first newsletter titled 'Career Structure and You' has been released and is available

on the above website. Further editions will be available on a regular basis.

For further information please contact Julie Brown, Principal Project Nurse (Career Structure Implementation), by:

Telephone: 8226 6333 or

E-mail: [Julie.Brown2@health.sa.gov.au](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:nursing&midwiferypracticebill@health.sa.gov.au)

