

# Nursing and Midwifery Matters

What matters to you, matters to us

Welcome to the September edition of the nursing and midwifery newsletter.

I am always excited to be able to report on areas in which South Australia is leading the way. This month I thought I would focus the spotlight on a fantastic program which is designed to support the better health outcomes of the Aboriginal communities in South Australia.



The Aboriginal Health Council South Australia (AHCSA) formed a partnership with Country Health South Australia (CHSA) in 2009 to deliver Aboriginal Maternal Infant Care (AMIC) training. The Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care Course, which is the first of its kind, includes units from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Training package (HLT07), Certificate IV in Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander Health Care Training /Practice (HLT43907) and three Diploma units in antenatal, perinatal and post natal care. This course is unique from other Aboriginal maternity care training because of the clinical skills focus of the program.

Participants in this two year fulltime program must be employed as AMIC workers; they receive on the job training and one study day a week. AMIC workers have been recruited in Port Augusta for a number of regional sites around the state and the AMIC training is being delivered across the pilot sites in Pt Augusta and Whyalla.

Aboriginal maternal infant care has long been an identified area of need. The training will not only help to build capacity within the Aboriginal health workforce but will also help to ensure the provision of much needed culturally appropriate and accessible maternal and infant health care services for the Aboriginal community.

The Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care Program trains Aboriginal women to work alongside doctors and midwives to deliver culturally appropriate assistance to pregnant women. The program encourages Aboriginal woman who are pregnant to seek support early in their pregnancy.

The model of care is unique in that it places the AMIC Worker in a partnership with midwives and doctors. The care of Aboriginal women during antenatal, labour, birthing and postnatal periods is guided by the AMIC worker in partnership with her team.

Congratulations to Deanna Stuart-Butler and Bronwyn Warren the first successful graduates of this program and the first qualified AMIC practitioners.

Regards

Debra Pratt

A/Chief Nurse





## National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

The following information relates to the changes associated with the move to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 and is accurate as at the time of publication.

### **Renewal of registration for South Australian Nurses and Midwives.**

South Australian (SA) Nurses and Midwives registrations expired on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. Under the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme SA Nurses and Midwives first registration renewal is for a 9 month period. This will bring us in line with the new national renewal date for the nursing and midwifery professions of the 31<sup>st</sup> May.

The National Law provides a one month grace period following the renewal period for registration. This means that a nurse or midwife will have one month beyond the expiry date of 31 August 2010 to renew their registration. The nurse or midwife can still work during this period of time because they will still be registered.

A late fee will normally apply if payment is made after the registration expiry date however AHPRA has waived this fee for this round August 2010 of registration renewals in SA..

The nurse or midwife must renew their registration within one month of the 31 August 2010 otherwise their registration will lapse.

If the nurse or midwife does not renew during the one month grace period that ends on 30 September 2010, the nurse or midwife will need to submit a new application for registration.

### **What if I have registration as a nurse/midwife in other States or Territories?**

There are nurses and midwives who held registration in more than one State or Territory prior to transition on 1 July 2010. As such there are nurses and midwives on the National Register who hold registration with different expiry dates. For this cohort a renewal notice will be generated in accordance with their later expiry date, so as not to disadvantage the nurse/midwife financially. The new expiry date

for all renewals undertaken this year will be 31 May 2011, to fall in line with the new National expiry date. Renewal notices next year will be generated based on the nurse/midwives principal place of practice.

There is no need for concern about the different expiry date as long as the nurse/midwife holds current registration. Registration in another state or territory can be verified on the online register.

### **Will I receive a registration certificate?**

AHPRA has advised registration certificates will be issued to nurses and midwives in the coming weeks. These will not be the same size or format as the previous nmbSA practicing certificates. While these can be used as evidence of registration AHPRA considers the register for nurses and midwives as the primary source of evidence of registration.

### **Employers Group Online Search Facility**

The AHPRA employer self-serve registration status search is now available. This enables authorised representatives of an employer to perform a group search on employees to check their registration status. There is currently no fee for access to this service.


If as an employer or authorised representative for an employer you wish to utilise this service you must first register. The following is the link to the relevant AHPRA site to assist you in this process:

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Employer-Services.aspx#Multiple%20Employee%20Registration%20Checks>

### **English Language Testing**

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) has developed registration standards for applicants, registrants or students which define the requirements to register.

The NMBA English language skills registration standard aim to protect the public through ensuring nurses and midwives have the necessary English language skills required to practise safely within the Australian context. For this reason all first time applicants for registration must be able to demonstrate



English language proficiency.

To find out more about this standard click on the following link:

<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/>.

### **Student Register**

South Australia is the only State or Territory currently registering students. It is planned that all students enrolled in a nursing or midwifery approved program will be registered across Australia by March 2011.

There is no fee for student registration and it is responsibility of the approved program provider to register students with AHPRA.

The Student Register is confidential with the information not being available to the public.

Assistant in Nursing are unregulated employees and there is no requirement for evidence of student registration for employment.

### **What is appropriate Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) cover?**

**Professional indemnity insurance arrangements** means arrangements that secure for the practitioner insurance from civil liability incurred by, or loss arising from, a claim that is made as a result of a negligent act, error or omission in the conduct of the practitioner. This type of insurance is available to practitioners and organisations across a range of industries and covers the costs and expenses of defending a legal claim, as well as any damages payable. Some government organisations under policies of the owning government are self-insured for the same range of matters.

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has developed professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements registration standard.

The PII standard requires that Nurses and midwives must not practise their professions unless they are covered in the conduct of their practice by appropriate professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements.

It does not apply to students of nursing and

midwifery; to nurses and midwives who have non-practising registration, or to registered midwives who are exempted under the National Law.

All South Australian Public Sector Nursing and Midwifery employees have been provided with a letter which outlines the level of indemnity provided under the South Australian Government's indemnity and insurance arrangements for civil liabilities arising in the course of their employment.

If you currently work for SA Health and haven't received this letter please seek further advice from your line manager.

It is the practitioner's responsibility to determine whether they are satisfied with their employer's PII cover.

### **How do I contact the AHPRA or NMBA?**

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

### **Postal Address**

AHPRA  
G.P.O. Box 9958  
Adelaide SA 5001

### **Office Location**

Level 8, 121 King William Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

The office contact numbers are:

**General enquiries:** 1300 419 495


**Notifications/complaints:** 70715530

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

<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/>.

## **Become a Pap smear preceptor!**

The role of nurses in primary health care, particularly general practice has expanded significantly in recent years. The addition of Pap smear Medicare items has enabled both rural and metropolitan nurses/midwives to perform Pap smears. SA Cervix Screening Program (SACSP) is funding targeted divisions of general practice to support practice nurses/midwives to complete Pap smear



training. As general practice see the positive contribution nurses/midwives make to their business demand for training has increased.

In order to overcome increasingly long waiting lists for training, SHine SA is introducing a new preceptor program, based on the successful Victorian model.

#### **What is a preceptor?**

A preceptor is an experienced Pap smear provider who teaches, inspires and serves as a mentor to support other nurses/midwives in their training to become Pap smear providers. Preceptors support training nurses/midwives with the practical component of the course.

#### **What are the benefits?**

Recognition by the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme includes up to 20 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points to those nurses/midwives who undertake preceptor training/mentoring.

#### **Being a preceptor also provides the opportunity to:**

- increase access to professional development opportunities
- share clinical experience and showcase the services that nurses/midwives provide to women
- feel a sense of pride in contributing to the development of skills in other nurses/midwives
- develop professional relationships with colleagues and reduce isolation for sole practitioners.

#### **Why should you do it?**

The preceptor model will provide exciting training opportunities for nurses/midwives wishing to expand their roles develop more skills and heighten their professional development.

Access to a preceptor is particularly beneficial to those nurses/midwives in rural regions, as both the theory and practical components of training are completed in the local region.

The benefits of this model are also far reaching

for doctors, practices and, most importantly, community women who might not otherwise have access to appropriate screening services.

#### **Where can you find more information?**

For more information please contact:

- Sonia Harris, SHine SA, ph: (08) 8300 5319; email: [sonia.harris@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:sonia.harris@health.sa.gov.au)
- Christine Gates, SA Cervix Screening Program, ph: (08) 8226 8183; email: [Christine.gates@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:Christine.gates@health.sa.gov.au)

## **Public Sector Nursing & Midwifery Enterprise Agreement**

The current Nurses/Midwives (South Australian Public Sector) Enterprise Agreement 2007 which covers employment of nurses and midwives in the public sector nominally expired on 30 June 2010. On 16 August 2010 government provided a written offer to the ANMF for all nurses and midwives.

To view government's full letter of offer to the ANMF please go to

<http://www.health.sa.gov.au/Default.aspx?tabid=714>.

Nurses and midwives can receive electronic updates about the progress towards a new Enterprise Agreement by registering an email address at <http://www.health.sa.gov.au/nmeb>.

## **Upcoming events and conferences**

### **Best Care, Best Place: Designing and Improving Patient Flow**

11-12 November 2010

Hilton Hotel, Victoria Sq, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

The aim of this seminar is to showcase innovative acute and community based models of care that have been successfully implemented to:

- Improve the patient journey
- Ensure that patient care is delivered in the most appropriate setting

- Avoid and/or reduce growth in demand for acute care
- Manage demand flows into and out of the acute sector.

To share ideas, build networks and inspire delegates to think creatively about the best way to deliver patient centred care in the most appropriate setting for their care needs.

To find out more information and register go to:

<http://www.changechampions.com.au>

## The CRANaplus 28th Annual Conference

Hotel Grand Chancellor

Adelaide October 13-16.

Remote Health – out there, doing it, teaching it, supporting it and researching it.

The 2010 conference theme is about action.

It's what remote and isolated health providers do every day.

Attendees will get a glimpse of the challenges facing health professionals in far-flung places from Haiti to Pakistan, and locations closer to home but still remote, from the Torres Strait to remote Australia.

Keynote Speakers include Rosemary Bryant, President of the International Council of Nurses, Greg Cavanagh the NT Coroner and Co-founder of the Jack Thompson Foundation, John Mofflin.

If you've ever thought of going remote this is the conference for you.

To find out more details about the conference go to: [www.crana.org.au](http://www.crana.org.au)

## Understanding and Responding to Anxiety Disorders Workshop

TATRA Corporate and Allied Health Training Services provide a variety of workshops and courses.

This workshop provides an overview of the diagnosis and treatment options of common anxiety disorders seen in mental health practice including: Panic Disorder, Generalised Anxiety,

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, PTSD and Social Phobia. Cognitive and behavioural mechanisms that trigger and maintain anxiety disorders will be discussed. Basic cognitive and behavioural therapy strategies to address these targets will be reviewed, including:

- De-arousal strategies
- Exposure therapy
- Behavioural experiments

To find out more and about this or the other services provided by TATRA visit their website at <http://www.tatratraining.com/index.html>.

## CLINICAL NURSING ASSESSMENT SKILLS

Adelaide: 14th October & 15th October 2010

This seminar will provide participants with the skills, confidence and knowledge to clinically assess patients using a systems-based approach. It will be particularly useful for those nurses who have not had access to formal education of patient-assessment in the past 18 months.

To find out more details about the conference go to: <http://www.ausmed.com.au>

## 2nd SAAVA National Conference

Lakes Resort – ADELAIDE - October 14-16th 2010

The Second Bi-Annual conference meeting of the South Australian Association for Vascular Access will consolidate the value of ongoing education, training, and networking. This conference will have a multi-cultural theme, giving insight into best practice for all patients.

To find out more about the conference go to: <http://www.saavaconf2009.com/default.html>

## For more information

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