

# Nursing and Midwifery Matters

What matters to you, matters to us

Welcome to the March 2011 edition of the nursing and midwifery newsletter

Our Queensland and other interstate colleagues who had been affected by the horrendous floods were acknowledged in the last edition of this newsletter. However as we are all aware since then Queensland and Darwin have experience cyclonic events and Christchurch New Zealand is still reeling from the loss of life and devastation resulting from the recent earthquake.

Many of our colleagues in these areas have not only been directly affected by these events but are in the frontline providing the much needed care and support for their communities. In times of great need Nurses and Midwives can be relied on to step up to the mark and provide whatever is required to assist in the emergency and recovery. I have heard of many such stories including the holidaying UK midwife who on the night of the Queensland cyclone assisted with a birth in one of the many refuge sites.

I was delighted to see the number and quality of nominations and applications for the Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards and the SA Premier Scholarships for 2011 which showcased the contribution and expertises of the Nurses and Midwives in our state.

Congratulations to the 40 recipients of the inaugural Nurse Practitioners Scholarships, the scholarship were offered to Registered Nurses currently enrolled or intend to enrol in a master's degree, approved by the NMBA for endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner, at an Australian tertiary institution in 2011.

The Department of Health is currently in the process of recruiting for the position of Chief Nurse/Midwife and has engaged a National Recruiting Agency to ensure the best field of applicants for this position. The Nursing and Midwifery Office team look forward to the finalisation of this new appointment and in the interim is continuing with business as usual. It has been a busy time for the team and I have appreciated the continued support and contribution of the Nursing and Midwifery Office staff.

Regards Debra





## The 2011 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

The South Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards (NMEA) recognise and acknowledge the significant contribution that nurses and midwives make to the community and their professions through their practice.

There have been a record number of nominations and applications for the 2011 NMEA and applications for the NMEA 12 categories are now closed.

Over the coming month the selection process will be undertaken to identify the finalists in each of the categories. The winners in each category will be announced on South Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards night.

SA Health, in conjunction with industry partners, invites you to celebrate their achievements by attending the South Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards ceremony dinner on **Friday, 6 May 2011 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.**

Tickets are available by contacting Candice Sferco, Ticket Coordinator, on [nmea@aomevents.com](mailto:nmea@aomevents.com) or ph 08 8125 2225.

### **South Australian Premiers Nursing and Midwifery Scholarship**

The South Australian Premiers Nursing and Midwifery Scholarship are also awarded at the NMEA ceremony dinner.

The Premier of South Australia is committed to building a valued and sustainable nursing and midwifery workforce. Scholarships are being offered to nurses and midwives to explore innovative practices within their chosen field, either nationally or internationally.

Two types of scholarships are available and these include:

- Overseas scholarships to the value of \$12,000 each.
- Australasian scholarships to the value of \$5,000 each.

Applications for the 2011 Premiers Nursing and Midwifery Scholarship opened on the 28<sup>th</sup>

January and are due to close on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

To find out more about the scholarships and access the guidelines and application form go to the Nursing and Midwifery Office website: [http://www.nursingsa.com/office\\_scholarships.php](http://www.nursingsa.com/office_scholarships.php).

## Nurse Practitioner Scholarship and Support Scheme 2011


The beginning of this academic year saw 40 NP Scholarships awarded to nurses to study for Masters level to become Nurse Practitioners. This is the first round of scholarships offered over the next 4 years, until 2014, is part of the Government's commitment to introducing more Nurse Practitioners across the State's public health system. The majority of Scholarships are allocated to targeted key clinical areas of palliative care, aged care, emergency and cancer services as well as other services of need such as mental health and allergy services.

At least 80 nurses will be eligible for a scholarship to help them complete their studies. Each nurse receives reimbursement for their course fees and associated costs with studying. A Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet 1 is available on the nursing and midwifery website [www.nursingsa.com](http://www.nursingsa.com) if you wish for more information around what the scholarship support entails. The next round of scholarships are expected to be offered in late 2011 for the 2012 University academic year. The Application Form and Guidelines will be posted on nursing and midwifery website.

## Public Sector Nursing & Midwifery Enterprise Agreement

### **Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet**

Following approval of the Nursing/Midwifery (South Australian Public Sector) Enterprise Agreement 2010 (the Agreement), SA Health, in consultation with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation has developed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which clarify some of the more significant new provisions in the Agreement.



The FAQs are designed to ensure consistent implementation of the new Agreement across SA Health and will provide guidance to managers and employees in applying the new provisions. It should be noted that the FAQs must also be read in conjunction with the Agreement as well as the Nurses (South Australian Public Sector) Award 2002.

The FAQs are now available on the Workforce Relations intranet site.

### **Payment of Salary Increases and Allowances**

Shared Services SA (SSSA) has advised SA Health of the timeframes for payment of the new salaries and allowances:

- by 18 February 2011 approximately 3,000 nurses and midwives will have been paid the new salary rates;
- by 25 February 2011 another approximately 7,000 employees will have received the new rates;
- by 4 March 2011 a further 8,000 will have received the new salary rates.

The difference in pay dates relate to the different pay cycles across SA Health. Further, all active employees will have received their arrears payments by 1 April 2011.

### **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.

#### **Annual Renewal of Registration**

The national date for nurses and midwives annual renewal is May 31<sup>st</sup>. This year will be the first year where almost all nurses and midwives are scheduled to renew their registrations on the same date. Given that approximately 200,000 nurses and midwives will be renewing their registration at this time it can be anticipated that this could challenge the Australia Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA's) registration process and

resources. The SA AHPRA office is already planning for the resource requirements in anticipation for this significant demand.

AHPRA encourages registrants to utilise the on line registration facility to renew registrations. Renewal notices should be received in the first week in April 2011.

To assist nurses and midwives in renewing their registration on time, AHPRA will be emailing all practitioners for whom they have an email address, urging them to renew early online. This email strategy will commence here in South Australia, with an anticipated email to over 5,000 SA registered nurses and midwives expected to be sent out this evening, and a further 5,000 on Thursday evening. Emails to the remainder will then be sent progressively from the following week.

The purpose of this email is to give you early advice of this initiative, and to provide a draft copy of the text of the email (see generic version attached) for your information.

#### **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 is:

**General enquiries:** 1300 419 495


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

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

### **SA Child Health Clinical Network**

One of the current activities of the SA Child Health Clinical Network has been to develop Statewide Paediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines for common health concerns.

These guidelines are primarily aimed at medical



staff working in any of primary care, local, regional, general or tertiary hospitals, however they may be utilised or guide care provided by other clinicians such as nurses. They will address primarily acute care of conditions and will include but not be limited to:

- common medical conditions occurring in children and young people from birth up to 18 years of age but not including management of neonatal conditions
- conditions that result in frequent presentations with or without admission to hospital
- conditions where there is unwanted variability in care with detrimental outcomes
- conditions where inappropriate care may lead to serious adverse consequences.

The guideline drafting process has involved the establishment of a lead clinician with supporting multi disciplinary work group to develop each guideline. A project plan and writer's guide were prepared to support the process.

Several final draft clinical practice guidelines are currently being disseminated across professional groups within SA.

The Network is keen to identify clinicians who would be interested in reviewing a draft(s) for opportunity to provide comment prior to their being finalised.

The Network is interested in ensuring a broad consultation base and would be keen to have Nurses and Midwives involved. The timeframe for the consultation process is March / April 2011.

If you are interested in reviewing a Paediatric Clinical Practice Guideline please contact the Child Health Clinical Network Development Manager Pam Murphy by email via [pam.murphy@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:pam.murphy@health.sa.gov.au).

## Upcoming events and conferences

### UniSA & Industry Partners Forum (Midwifery)

08.30- 13.30 - Tuesday March 2011

Bradley Forum - UniSA City West Campus, Hawke Building level 5, 50-55 North Terrace, Adelaide.

The forum will include sessions in the following areas:

- Continuing Professional Development Hours for Midwifery
- Postgraduate Midwifery Courses/Industry Needs
- Prescribing and Medicare Support for Midwives

To register to attend ph 8302 2152 or email [sonmposo@unisa.edu.au](mailto:sonmposo@unisa.edu.au) by COB Friday 11 March 2011

### Developing the Role of the Nurse Practitioner

28 - 29 March 2011 - Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne

A conference for organisations and managers looking to better understand, utilise and grow the role of the nurse practitioner in their health service.

With Key Presentations from:

- Rosemary Bryant, Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health and Ageing
- Ann Morrison, Executive Officer, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

For more information go to [www.iir.com.au/conferences/healthcare](http://www.iir.com.au/conferences/healthcare)

### For more information

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