

Nursing and Midwifery Matters

What matters to you, matters to us

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

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the middle of 2011!

The recent renewal of nursing and midwifery registration was a timely reminder that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) has almost been in place for a year. There have been many changes over this period including the implementation of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the introduction of National Boards for the ten health professions currently included in the (NRAS).

The National Board for the Nursing and Midwifery professions is the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). The functions of the NMBA include:

- registering nursing and midwifery practitioners and students
- developing standards, codes and guidelines for the nursing and midwifery profession
- handling notifications, complaints, investigations and disciplinary hearings
- assessing overseas trained practitioners who wish to practice in Australia
- approving accreditation standards and accredited courses of study

Since its inception the NMBA has undertaken consultation on a wide-range of proposals that affect the profession, including;

- Draft guidelines for professional indemnity insurance for midwives
- Revision of registration standards for professional indemnity insurance arrangements
- 'Quantum of cover' for professional indemnity insurance for midwives guideline

The Health Practitioners National Law provides for National Boards to establish State and Territory Boards to exercise its functions at the local level in a way that provides an effective and timely local response to health practitioners and the community. The South Australian Board will make individual registration and notification decisions in our state, based on national policies and standards set by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

In my current role as Acting Chief Nurse I was invited to be on the selection panel for the membership of the South Australian Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. The selection process is merit based and State and Territory board members are appointed by the Health Minister in the relevant jurisdiction. Under the National Law, Board members are required to act impartially and in the public interest in performance of their duties and put the public interest before the interests of particular health practitioners or any entity that represents health practitioners.

It is important for nurses and midwives to understand the regulatory legalisation and processes that apply to our professions and I encourage you all to visit the [AHPRA](#) and [NMBA](#) websites for further information on their role and functions.

Regards Debra





Capability and Self Development Framework

SA Health in the commitment to ensuring a responsive workforce has, in conjunction with health services and the ANMF (SA Branch) produced a Capability and Self Development Framework as outlined in the Nursing and Midwifery (SA Public Sector) Enterprise Agreement 2010. The proposed Framework establishes the processes and systems to be used by health services and the public sector nursing and midwifery workforce in developing knowledge skills and competencies that will meet the needs of clients now and into the future.

The purpose of the Capability and Self-Development Framework is to:

- Guide nurses and midwives at all levels to continue their professional development within the context of life long learning.
- Guide health service organisations in their development of appropriate and relevant strategies of workforce and professional development.
- Provide direction and supporting structures to enable the planning and implementation of staff professional development opportunities for career enhancement

The draft Framework has been developed by the members of the Nursing and Midwifery Enterprise Agreement 2010 Capability Development Framework Working Party. The Working Party is comprised of nurses and midwives from health units across SA Health, educators, representatives from the Department of Health including the Nursing and Midwifery Office and the ANMF (SA Office).

To assist with the Framework development we are seeking your feedback on the proposed Framework and would appreciate you completing an online survey.

It is anticipated to take ten-fifteen minutes to complete the survey after you have read the Capability and Self Development Framework document.

The consultation period is two weeks and closes on 4 July 2011 with the feedback informing any required changes prior to finalising the document. Once finalised an Implementation plan will be developed.

The draft Capability and Self Development Framework and Survey can be found at: www.nursingsa.com/office_projects.php.

Should you have any questions concerning the Capability and Self Development Framework please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) at or contact Bernadette Cummins on (08) 8226 5784 or via e-mail bernadette.cummins@health.sa.gov.au.

Nursing & Allied Health Rural Locum Scheme (NAHRLS)

The Department of Health and Ageing has established the NAHRLS to support nurses, midwives and eligible allied health professionals in rural and regional Australia to get away to do the professional development training they need to continue their vital work.


The NAHRLS is a component of the Australian Government's National Health and Hospital Network Reform agenda and aims to remove some of the barriers rural health professionals face in accessing CPD activities.

The NAHRLS will support and recruit suitable locums to enable rural professionals to leave their post to undertake CPD activities, and enable organisations to back-fill their positions to support ongoing service delivery.

The NAHRLS can find suitable locums for the period staff are away on CPD activities. The scheme supports all locum recruitment, travel and accommodation costs. Organisations and Health Services can also apply for locum support for their staff.

The NAHRLS supports the ongoing CPD requirements for health professionals in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and other relevant workforce regulatory organisations.

The NAHRLS will also benefit those urban



based health professionals wishing to experience rural or remote practice by undertaking a locum placement and offers great incentives for those health professionals interested in working as a locum in rural Australia.

NAHRLS will help reduce the high costs of locum support in rural areas and enable these health professionals the opportunity to get away for their training without the guilt of leaving their workplace understaffed.

If you would like more information about this scheme please visit our website at www.nahrls.com.au or contact Brooke Sawyer at brooke@nahrls.com.au.

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 1st 2010 and is accurate as at the time of publication.

Renewal of registration

- Registration renewal for all nurses and midwives with general registration was due by 31 May.
- The consequences for practitioners not renewing their registration on time are serious under the National Law.
- ***Under the National Law, practitioners remain registered for one month after their registration expiry date.*** If they renew within this one month late period, they remain registered to practise while their application is processed. Their listing on the Register will be updated when the application is processed.
- ***If a health practitioner does not renew within the one month late period, their registration will lapse.*** Their name will be removed from the National Register under the National Law and they will not be able to practise. ***They must then make a new application for registration and pay the application fee.*** There is a fast track

pathway for this purpose, but practitioners cannot practise while they are not registered.

- Once an application has been received by AHPRA, a health practitioner can continue to practise while their application to renew is processed, even if this extends past their registration expiry date.
- Health practitioners who have renewed will be sent a certificate and a pop out, wallet-sized card about one month after they renew.

The online National Register at www.ahpra.gov.au is proof that a health practitioner is registered to practise – a supporting certificate is supplied to health practitioners but is not a requirement to prove registration. Employers can use the online Register as proof of a practitioner's registration status.

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's' Current Items for Consultation.

The NMBA undertakes wide-ranging consultation on proposals that affect the profession. To view the documents for consultation go to:

<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

The NMBA is currently inviting submissions on a 'draft policy on re-entry to practice for nurses and midwives'; submission on this matter close on the 9 August 2011.

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

General enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)

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



Comorbidity Action in the North (CAN) – PhD scholarship available.

The multi-partner CAN team led by the University of Adelaide includes the Adelaide Health Service Mental Health, Adelaide North Division of General Practice, Aboriginal Health Council of SA, SA Network of Drug and Alcohol Services (SANDAS) and the University of South Australia.

The prevalence of comorbidity is up to 70% of all clients presenting to mental health or drug and alcohol services for treatment. A recent study in Melbourne concluded however that many clients with complex co-existing problems (often called comorbidity or dual diagnosis) could not get access to quality services that could recognise and respond to their needs as *“the duality was in the system not the individual.”* We know already that people with mental health and alcohol/drug problems require easy access to well coordinated, ‘no wrong door’ support that stops service duplication, avoidable complications and worsening of their overall well being and life opportunities.

The CAN team is now funded to find ways to address this issue by the Australian Research Council to conduct a three year project in the Playford and Salisbury local government areas of Adelaide. CAN aims to identify, engage with and learn from community groups, consumers and service providers concerned about how the needs of young and older people affected by mental health and alcohol/drug problems can be offered easy access to the comorbidity early intervention, treatment and support they need. This will include Aboriginal and refugee/migrant groups living in the area.

The funding included 2 PhD scholarships available over three years. One scholarship of the scholarships positions has been filled however there second scholarship is still available. This second scholarship focuses on the particular service needs, experiences, availability of quality care and ways of improving service outcomes for Aboriginal people affected by mental health and

alcohol/other drug problems. Each scholarship is under the APA(I) scheme for 2011, pays \$27,222 PA tax free, and is for full time study for 3 years.

For further information please contact CAN leaders:

Professor Charlotte de Crespigny

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Email:

charlotte.decrepigny@adelaide.edu.au

or

Professor Cherrie Galletly

Phone: (+61) 8 82698144

Fax (+61) 8 82696187

Mobile (+61) 406422494

Email: cherrie.galletly@adelaide.edu.au

Upcoming events and conferences

Healthy Australia Forum series

Will South Australia have enough health workers to serve future needs?

Prof James Buchan a WHO expert will talk to the community on health sustainability in the 21st century.

Wednesday 27 July 2011 - Adelaide Town Hall, 5.30pm start

RSVP essential via [Hawke Centre web site](#) or phone 08 8302 0215

The Healthy Australia Forum series is jointly presented in South Australia by [Health Workforce Australia](#) and [The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre](#).

Sansom Institute Research Symposium

Drug Use During Pregnancy: Drugs, Nutrition and Fetal Physiology

To be held on 15 July 2011 at Room H2-02, Bazil Hetzel Building, University of South Australia, Adelaide

RSVP to sansominstitute@unisa.edu.au

International Nursing Conference,



Nursing: Caring to Know, Knowing to Care

An extension for submission of abstracts to July 15, 2011 for International Nursing Conference, Nursing: Caring to Know, Knowing to Care to be held in Jerusalem June 4-7, 2012.

DON'T MISS this opportunity to share your expertise on an international level!

For more information please review the conference website <http://israel.mao.ca> for details about the abstract process.

The Australian College of Children & Young People's Nurses (ACCYPN) 2011 Conference – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

The ACCYPN invites you to register for their 2011 Inaugural Conference being held 19-21 October at Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach.

The theme for the conference is **Navigating New Directions in Children and Young People's Health Care** as we celebrate and move forward as a new organisation to promote excellence in health care for children and young people in the context of their family and the community. The conference will feature both international and national experts.

Delegates will gain knowledge and insight into how to manage the challenges faced by nurses in today's complex healthcare environments. If you would like to participate in this conference as a sponsor or exhibitor, please contact the conference managers.

To register: visit www.accypn.org.au/ and click on the Conference logo link on the front page of the website.

For more information

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