



Headline News

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National Nurse Refresher Program and National Skills Based Orientation Program for nurses new to general practice

AGPN is very pleased to announce that we have been contracted by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to undertake two key pieces of work to support the recruitment and retention of nurses into general practice. These projects are to:

- undertake the development and delivery of a **re-entry / refresher program** for nurses not currently in the nursing workforce who may be interested in working in general practice, to assist with meeting the recruitment needs for nurses in general practice by widening the pool of available nurses. This project will build on the work undertaken by the Riverina Division of General Practice and Primary Care,
- develop and deliver a **comprehensive national orientation program** to support nurses new to general practice to enhance retention rates, and to support the provision of high quality and safe health care services. This project will further develop the general Practice Nurse 'Bootcamp' program from the Ipswich and West Moreton Division of General Practice.

AGPN believe that both these pieces of work will support the recruitment and retention of practice nurses by maximising their contribution to quality and safe patient care.

Both of the projects are due to be completed by the end of January 2009.

Development and delivery of an e-Learning training package to support Medicare Item 10997

AGPN is pleased to advise that development of the e-Learning on-line training modules is progressing well. An audit of currently existing training programs and resources to support the provision of the generic and disease specific modules is being undertaken by Monash University, School of Nursing and Midwifery.

The Expert Advisory Panel has been appointed and is presently working with the module developers to provide disease specific advice and input into the project audit. The National Reference Group has also been formed, with the initial meeting being held on 30th May 2008 with strong support for the project being offered from all sectors.

A meeting on 24th June 2008 will see all parties meeting in Canberra to discuss the outcomes of the audit and specifications for the training package with a view to providing the module developers feedback and advice on module content and best systems practice approaches.

AGPN looks forward to the provision of future progress developments regarding this important project.

2008 NiGP Needs Assessments

A total of 30 divisions have now completed the 2008 divisional NiGP needs assessments. This two-yearly needs assessment is a requirement of the AGPN and SBO funding and will assist in measuring the impact of the program over the past two years and to inform future plans.

Responses are required by 30th June 2008.

For further information and the link to the needs assessment please contact Beta Chakraverty on bchakraverty@agpn.com.au or (02) 6228 0858.

Stories from the Frontline RCNA General Practice Nurse Conference

The 2008 RCNA General Practice Nurse Conference will be held from the 25-27th November at the Novotel Pacific Bay Resort in Coffs Harbour. The call for abstracts will be available shortly.

AGPN are once again assisting RCNA in sourcing practice nurses who would be interested in presenting in the "Stories from the Frontline" Session. This session provides an opportunity for first time presenters to give a short presentation of around 10 minutes sharing their experience of practice nursing. This session has been rated very highly by delegates at previous conferences.

To register your interest or seek further information please contact Beta Chakraverty at bchakraverty@agpn.com.au or (02) 6228 0858. Please note that presenters in the Stories from the Frontline session will receive financial support to cover travel expenses and registration costs, through the Divisions Network NiGP Program.

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) First Graduation

On the 24th April 2008 the first cohort of students from the Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice graduated from the University of the Sunshine Coast after successfully completing the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice). The first three courses were delivered through the Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice and the fourth course (electives) through the University of the Sunshine Coast. The elective completed by the students included; Independent Study, Health Promotion Implementation & Evaluation and Public Health Foundations.



Graduating students include Dianne Bennett, Marcia Bertenshaw, Naomi Carruthers, Vicki Ellem, Margaret Johnson, Victoria Kidd, Carol Lenz, Penny Rivlin, Sandra Rymer, Therese Tati and Jaana Walker. (Missing students include Nicolette Bannick, Sue Bennett, Kym Hogan, Karina Maguire, Marrison Pflasterer and Jane Riach)

For further information on the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) contact Toni Rice, Nurse Program Officer on trice@agpn.com.au or (02) 62280850.

Domestic Violence Referral Points Project Update

The Practice Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers (AHWs) as Domestic Violence Referral Points Project is an initiative of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and DoHA. FaHCSIA engaged Lifeline Australia to develop and deliver training to practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers in PIP eligible practices working in rural and remote areas.

Seven training two-day workshops have been held to date since February 2008. There has been strong demand for places at the training, with many of the workshops oversubscribed. Feedback

from participants indicates that the information is well presented, contextually relevant and useful.

For further information on the training program including dates for future workshops can be found at: **Practice Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers as Domestic Violence Referral Points Project** or <http://www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=33497>

National Resource Library (NRL)

No new resources have been added to the NRL during the month of May 2008. AGPN encourages every division to access the NRL and upload new resources to promote sharing among the divisions.

For assistance or enquiries for the NRL contact Beta Chakraverty on bchakraverty@agpn.com.au or (02) 6228 0858.

Other News

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) – University of Queensland

The University of Queensland is now accepting enrolments for the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) for second semester 2008. The Graduate Certificate has been formulated to fit in with the busy schedules of practising nurses and is available via distance education. The course consists of four subjects that can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis and is available Australia wide. For further information please refer to the website – Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) – or contact the Program Coordinator, Jacqui Young at j.young4@uq.edu.au

[http:// www.nursing-midwifery.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=49946&pid=0](http://www.nursing-midwifery.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=49946&pid=0)

Lifescrpts

The May 2008 edition of the Lifescrpts newsletter is now available on the AGPN website. The newsletter provides some key examples of how to successfully implement and integrate Lifescrpts as part of everyday practice.

The link to the document is http://www.agpn.com.au/client_images/196101.pdf

ADEA – Insulin Initiation in People with Type 2 Diabetes

In response to the growing demand for ambulatory insulin initiation services in type 2 diabetes, the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) has commissioned five web presentations addressing various issues surrounding the initiation of insulin therapy. ADEA invites you to view these presentations at www.adea.com.au. Topics and presenters include:

- Achieving glycaemic control – the rationale for the introduction of insulin in type 2 diabetes. A/Prof Jonathon Shaw – International Diabetes Institute, Baker Heart Research Institute
- Diabetes education standards for insulin initiation and stabilisation. Erica Wright – Manager, ACT Diabetes Service
- Psychological Insulin Resistance. A/Prof T Skinner – University of Wollongong
- Insulin Prescription and Quality Use of Medicines Principles. Jane Ludington – St Vincent’s Hospital Sydney, University of Sydney
- Medico-Legal Issues and Non-Medical Prescribing- Possibilities under the National Health Reform Agenda. Dr Rosalie Boyce – University of Queensland

As part of this project, ADEA will convene a Round Table discussion between key stakeholder groups. AGPN has been invited to participate in this Round Table. If you would like to provide input via this representative, please forward your comments to Beta Chakraverty email bchakraverty@agpn.com.au by Friday 27th June 2008.

Contact the Editor

Information in this newsletter is for the use and benefit of all members of SBOs and Divisions, so please pass it on, and recycle the whole, or parts, of this publication to your members with due acknowledgements to AGPN.

If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments on, AGPN Nursing News please contact Toni Rice on 02 62280850 or email trice@agpn.com.au