



## Inside this issue

### Headline News

2009 National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)

Development and Delivery of an e-learning Training Package to Support Medicare Item 10997

Domestic Violence Referral Points Project

### Other News

Support for GPs in Violent Situations

Cancer Learning website

Articles Courtesy AGPN Mid-Week Facts

Articles Courtesy Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA)

### Recent Publications

### Contact the Editor



*The Benchmark Group*

Support sponsor for the NiGP Forum 2009

## Headline News

### 2009 National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum

AGPN would like to extend our sincere thanks to our presenters and all participating divisions, for contributing to the success of our recent national forum in Melbourne. 150 delegates attended the two day forum, with representation from 107 divisions of general practice.

**Your feedback** – 80% of respondents rated the overall forum as above average or excellent. Feedback regarding our keynote speakers, and session presenters was overwhelmingly positive. Some of the key themes reported by respondents on their evaluation were:

- an appreciation of the opportunity to hear a 'big picture' overview of national primary care initiatives
- an opportunity to network with and to hear from other divisions
- hearing about what is happening nationally with nursing and nursing in general practice
- having an overview of national practice nurse projects.

A summary evaluation report will shortly be posted on the AGPN website. Presentations from those speakers who gave permission have been posted to the forum website at:

<http://www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=39188>

### Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)

AGPN is delighted to advise that 21 general practice nurses recently graduated from the University of the Sunshine Coast Graduate Certificate in Nursing. Julie Porritt was pleased to have the opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony and to celebrate the success of all these nurses. These nurses were from New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland.



*Photo Courtesy Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice*

AGPN would like to extend our sincere congratulations to all these nurses on their achievement. This graduate certificate program, which is designed to provide optimum support for practice nurses to undertake graduate studies, continues to grow in strength and popularity. This year 63 nurses are enrolled in the program from all the states/territories across Australia.

## **Development and Delivery of an 'e-learning Training Package to Support Medicare Item 10997'**

AGPN and partner organisations, Royal College of Nursing Australia and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education are pleased to advise the final stages of development of the e-learning training package are currently underway.

Due to a slight delay, the e-learning package will be completed for release by early May 2009. It will be made available free of charge to all interested practice nurses and Aboriginal health workers until the end of August 2009. Beyond this point a minimal cost recovery fee will be imposed. This fee is yet to be determined but it is important to note the project is a not-for-profit venture therefore costs will be determined upon a minimum recovery basis only.

The e-learning training package, which will be available online at RCNA's 3LP website and at Batchelor Institute's dedicated web-learning centre, consists of a pre-requisite foundation module and six disease-specific modules covering the topic areas of arthritis, asthma, cancer, coronary heart disease, dementia and diabetes.

The project partnership team is delighted to announce the addition of a kidney health module that is being developed by Kidney Health Australia. This new module will be available by the end of May 2009 and will be included in the national roll-out period, free of charge from June to end of August 2009.

The package, available also in CD ROM format and for download on MP3, has a range of features including a variety of self-assessment tasks; optional discussion forums; recommended further information; glossary; references; untimed and unlimited options to undertake self-assessment; a choice of text-based or voice over options for delivery; interactive scenarios, and opt-in/opt-out features to enable you to design your own study timetable.

As a reminder, Medicare Item 10997 has been developed to enable provision of monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease care plan by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker on behalf of a general practitioner. This training package aims to ensure appropriate and enhanced uptake of this Medicare Item and to facilitate an associated work practice change.

We would like to again take this opportunity to thank all who have participated in the practice nurse and registered Aboriginal Health Worker pilots conducted for this project. Please continue to watch this space for the launch of the 'e-learning training package to support Medicare Item 10997'

An announcement on the AGPN website [www.agpn.com.au](http://www.agpn.com.au) will be made immediately when the package is available for uptake. For any further enquiries or additional information about the package, please contact Senior Project Coordinator, Ms Lynda Wylie on [lwylie@agpn.com.au](mailto:lwylie@agpn.com.au) or telephone (02) 6228 0826.

"AGPN acknowledges the financial support of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing"

## **Domestic Violence Referral Points Project**

The national rollout of the training program ***Recognise and Respond to Domestic and Family Violence in rural and remote regions across Australia concludes end of June 2009.***

Only three more Domestic Violence training workshops are scheduled till the end of June 2009. AGPN with the assistance of divisions continues to support the training workshops for the Domestic Violence Referral Points Project.

**Registrations for the on-line training have now closed.**

**The last three workshops scheduled are:**

- **Moree NSW - 5 & 6th May 2009**
- **Dubbo NSW - 20 & 21st May 2009**
- **Darwin NT - 10 & 11th June 2009**

Support payments towards travel and accommodation are available for practice nurses/Aboriginal Health Workers from eligible practices to attend the two day face to face domestic violence training workshops.

The content of the workshops is reportedly very effective and demand for places at the training workshop continues to be strong.

**Practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers from eligible practices who have been unable to access the workshops but are interested in attending any future workshops please contact Julie Porritt on 02 6228 0800 or [jporritt@agpn.com.au](mailto:jporritt@agpn.com.au) at the earliest.**

For enrolment forms and more information on the training program click the link below:  
<http://www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=33497>

## Other News

### Support for GPs in Violent Situations

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners today launched a new training kit aimed at helping general practitioners to prevent and manage unsafe, even life-threatening situations in their surgeries.

The kit, General Practice: A safe place - will assist GPs and other surgery staff to equip themselves with the skills to create a safe physical environment and minimise potentially violent situations.

A free copy of the General Practice – A safe place: tips and tools booklet will be sent to every practice in Australia.

The booklet and an accompanying education module, which includes case studies and responses, are also available through the RACGP website: <http://www.racgp.org.au/>

### Have you visited the [Cancer Learning](#) website yet?

The Cancer Learning online hub is an initiative of Cancer Australia and aims to:

- consolidate the enormous variety of evidence-based learning activities, resources and information in cancer care available across Australia and overseas
- provide a first port of call for health professionals, organisations and cancer networks who wish to undertake, build or plan professional development programs and activities in cancer care
- enable resources and information to be shared by cancer care providers across Australia.

Cancer Learning is designed for health professionals working in cancer care. However the site may also provide useful information for consumers and some resources are designed to promote further engagement between consumers and health professionals. Consumers can play an important role in professional development activities by participation on committees and via other consumer advocacy pathways. For further information about how consumers can be involved in these activities please visit the Consumer Participation page on [http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/build/consumer\\_participation.php](http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/build/consumer_participation.php)

***Courtesy of AGPN Mid-Week Facts:***

### OSSIE Guide to Clinical Handover Improvement

The OSSIE Guide to Clinical Handover Improvement has been released by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to assist clinician-leaders and managers to implement solutions and

tools for improving clinical handover practices. The guide outlines the five phases of OSSIE and offers an approach to change management, measurement and the use and development of standardised handover processes. The first edition has been developed as a consultation edition and focuses on hospital clinical handover. Comments on the consultation edition will be invited from April – July 2009 and will inform a second edition, to be released in late 2009. The OSSIE Guide is freely available for download from [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au). Further information, please contact Tamsin Kaneen on 02 9263 3581 or via email on [tamsin.kaneen@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:tamsin.kaneen@safetyandquality.gov.au)

## **Get Set 4 Life Guide – translations now available**

The Get Set 4 Life – Habits for Healthy Kids Guide (the Guide) provided at the time of the Healthy Kids Check (MBS Items 709 and 711), has now been translated into six community languages: Arabic; Traditional Chinese; Greek; Italian; Spanish; and Vietnamese. General Practitioners and practice nurses can access copies of the translated versions of the Guide:

- by ordering from National Mailing and Marketing; email: [nmm@nationalmailing.com.au](mailto:nmm@nationalmailing.com.au) or telephone: 02 6269 1000; or
- by downloading from: [www.health.gov.au/epc](http://www.health.gov.au/epc)

### ***Courtesy of Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA):***

#### **Smoking and Pregnancy Resource**

The Rural Health Education Foundation has a free DVD and accompanying resources for Smoking and Pregnancy which will assist GPs, practice nurses, midwives, drug and alcohol workers and Aboriginal health workers, particularly for those who work and live in rural and remote areas, to provide that support. It contains up to date evidence based information on smoking intervention, services and care.

The DVD provides a comprehensive resource base for health professionals that includes not only the Foundation's satellite television broadcast but also electronic and printable versions of all the resources included in the National Smoke-Free Pregnancy Project and Pregnancy Lifescripts.

It also features four case studies that depict the difficulties and concerns around smoking for Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers and a number of approaches and methods for smoking cessation intervention in pregnancy.

Included with the DVD is a Learning Guide designed to provide both a summary of the program and a framework for individual and group learning.

#### **National Families Week**

The theme for National Families Week 2009 has been announced. It is "National Families Week - Celebrate how everyone makes a difference". National Families Week will run from 10 - 16 May 2009

(coinciding with UN International Day of Families on 15 May and Mothers' Day on 10 May). National Families Week is Australia's main annual celebration of the importance of families.

The central aim of National Families Week 2009 is to encourage all Australians to think about and celebrate the many different people within families who make families united and strong and the many different types of families across society, each deserving respect and acknowledgement.

This National Families Week, you're encouraged to explore ways in which you can recognise, value and support the people who make a difference to the wellbeing of your family. You could have a family meal and talk about each person's contribution to the family, hold a family reunion to thank the family member who seems to keep everyone in contact or start a family project that helps others. See our website for more ideas [www.familiesaustralia.org.au](http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au)

Families Australia is Australia's independent, peak, not-for-profit body representing the interests of families. Families Australia manages National Families Week on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Further information about National Families Week 2009 is also available on our website: <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index.htm>

### **Call for abstracts open for inaugural RCNA Primary Health Care Conference**



The inaugural RCNA Primary Health Care Conference will take place on 8-10 November 2009 and the call for abstracts is now open. There has never been a more critical time for nurses to come together and discuss the role of the profession in the primary health care setting.

RCNA encourages all nurses to be part of this leading edge conference by submitting an abstract for presentation. The theme of the conference is *Primary health care: collaboration, integration and reform – a nursing response*. Abstracts should relate to the conference title and focus on research, delivery, education or policy. For more information visit: [www.rcna.org.au](http://www.rcna.org.au)

### **Community and Primary Health Care Faculty is good news for nursing**

Royal College of Nursing, Australia is delighted to announce the opening of its new Community and Primary Health Care Faculty this week. The launch of the Faculty is particularly significant in light of the Rudd Government's continued push for an overhaul of Australia's primary health care system.

"The nursing profession has worked long and hard on the issues surrounding primary health care in Australia, with a particular focus on the need for new models of care," said RCNA's President, Dr Stephanie Fox-Young FRCNA.

"This work to date has established a sound basis for our new Faculty, and will create a clear direction for the lobbying efforts of RCNA in order to push for better opportunities for nurses in community and primary health care," said RCNA's Chief Executive Officer, Debra Cerasa FRCNA.

The Faculty will bring together the research, policy and clinical expertise of RCNA's members and will establish solid research and networking opportunities around community and primary health care.

### ***Project Update - National Registration and Accreditation***

In March 2008 the Federal Government announced that a single national registration and accreditation process would be formalised by July 2010 for 10 key health professions, including nursing and midwifery. RCNA has and continues to collaborate with the Australian Peak Nursing and Midwifery Forum (APNMF), a coalition of the peak nursing and midwifery organisations in Australia, to provide joint submissions on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

This collaborative approach aimed to ensure that the nursing and midwifery professions agreed on key issues relating to the development of the Scheme and were able to provide consensus advice on the design and implementation of the Scheme.

### ***Recent publications:***

#### ***Contributions from the lifeworld: quality, caring and the general practice nurse***

Pearce C, Phillips C, Hall S, Sibbald B, Porritt J, Yates R, Dwan K, Kljakovic M. Qual Prim Care. 2009;17(1):5-13.

This study explores the roles of general practice nurses in relation to quality and safety using a cross-sectional multimethod study of 25 Australian general practices. Data included interviews with practice nurses, general practitioners and practice managers; photographs of nurse-identified 'key workspaces'; structured observation of nurses for two one-hour sessions; and floor plans. Nurses describe a productive tension between the regulatory roles that they play in general practices, and patient-focused care. Current funding systems often fail to recognise the importance of the particular elements of nurse contributions to quality and safety in primary care.[Abstract precis by PHC RIS]

See: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/rmp/gpc/2009/00000017/00000001> (Open Access Journal)

### **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 Beta Chakraverty on 02 62280 800 or email [bchakraverty@agpn.com.au](mailto:bchakraverty@agpn.com.au)