



Australian Divisions of General Practice

e-newsletter of the Nursing in General Practice Program

Nursing News

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NEWS STORIES

Nursing in General Practice (NIGP) Program Update

As we move into 2006-2008 funding period for the national NiGP Program, the SBOs have been busy briefing their Divisions on the new round of funding and the program guidelines. Work is also underway for SBOs to complete a needs assessment with each of their Divisions in order to capture a current picture of the progress of each Division in supporting practice nurses, and their future needs and aspirations in this important area.

ADGP Principal Advisor for Nursing in General Practice, Julie Porritt, has undertaken a visit to each SBO addressing on invitation, Division Program Officers and Executive Officers to provide a briefing on the national initiative and to answer any queries.

The next phase of the program is for Divisions to prepare a submission to their SBO outlining their proposal for enhancing their nursing in general practice program.

A meeting of the SBO NiGP Program Officers will be held at ADGP on 4-5 July for consultation, collaboration and discussion on NiGP Program planning and policy issues.

National Resource for Nursing in General Practice

ADGP is pleased to advise that in conjunction with the Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA) and the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF), we have been successful in a submission for funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to develop the National Resource for Nursing in General Practice.

The National Resource will be designed to assist in the recruitment and orientation of nurses into the general practice setting. It will be applicable to a national audience and will provide information and resources for an employer, all members of the general practice team, Divisions of General Practice and nurses new to general practice.

The project will commence in July 2006 and will be completed in January 2007. A reference group of key stakeholders will be established to provide input and advice to the project. Wide consultation will also occur with relevant stakeholders and end users of the Resource across the term of the project in validating and testing the resource and providing input into its design and delivery.

The Resource will be developed utilising and building on existing resources, including the extensive *Practice Nurse Recruitment and Induction Resource* developed by the Melbourne Division of General Practice. To this end we are seeking the support of the Network to forward to us any resources you have developed relevant to this area including:

- Recruitment kits or information,
- Orientation kits, training programs or information,
- Policies and procedures for practice nurses,
- Other information you think might be relevant.

Appropriate acknowledgment for any resource received and utilised to inform the development of the Resource will be acknowledged in the final release. As our timelines for having a draft resource together are short, we would appreciate your prompt response by **Friday 14th July**. Please forward any information in electronic form to Toni Rice Nurse Program Officer email trice@adgp.com.au. Resources produced only in hard copy can be posted to attention Toni Rice ADGP, PO Box 4308, MANUKA ACT 2603.

Further information and updates regarding this project will be made available in the near future. If you have any questions please contact Toni Rice on the email above or phone (02) 6228 0850.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child health check. (Item 708)

A new Medicare funded health check for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) on 1st May 2006.

The new MBS item will be available to provide an annual health check to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from birth to 14 years.

The annual health check will help to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children receive optimum health care by encouraging early detection, diagnosis and treatment of common and treatable conditions. It will also help to reduce or prevent serious illness.

A practice nurse, Aboriginal Health Worker or other qualified health professional can assist the medical practitioner in the information collection components of the health check.

Further information can be obtained on www.health.gov.au/epc

Health Assessment for refuge and other humanitarian entrants to Australia (Items 714 and 716)

Two new Medicare items were introduced on 1st May 2006 to support GPs to provide health assessments on refugees and other humanitarian entrants, within 12 months of arrival in Australia, or within 12 months of visa grant.

These items have been introduced because refugees often arrive in Australia with complex medical conditions resulting from their area of origin or previous living conditions.

Information on the use of interpreting services available for Health Assessments can be obtained by phoning 131450 or from the website www.dimia.gov.au/tis/feefree.htm

A practice nurse or other qualified health professional can assist the medical practitioner in the information collection component of the health check, if certain conditions are met. These conditions are described in the explanatory notes of the May 2006 supplement to the Medicare Benefits Schedule.

Further information can be obtained on www.health.gov.au/epc

National Divisions Nursing in General Practice (NiGP) forum

The first annual National Divisions in General Practice Forum will be held at the Carlton Crest in Brisbane on the 29th and 30th August 2006.

The forum will showcase nationally relevant NiGP initiatives and models as well as offering opportunities to build expertise and support networks amongst division NiGP program officers.

Funding will be provided to cover the travel and accommodation for one delegate from each division and SBO. Divisions are welcome to send more than one delegate at their own cost.

Registration forms were forwarded to SBOs for distribution to Divisions on 9th June. The copy of the registration form is also available on the ADGP website www.adgp.com.au and follow link to nursing in general practice.

Registrations close 7th July 2006. For further information contact Mandy Bruce Program Officer mbruce@adgp.com.au

EDUCATION UPDATES

Practice Nurse Wound Training

With thanks from Australian Nursing Journal June 2006

The GPDV first practice nurse wound management course has now graduated.

The introduction of Medicare provider numbers being available for wound care provided by practice nurses in the general practice setting has resulted in Practice Nurses seeking education in wound care management.

The Wound Foundation of Australia together with the General Practice Division of Victoria has developed a course which runs over 6 months.

The students attend a four day intensive workshop followed by 12 weeks of online tutorials. Students are also required to submit an assignment and present an oral case study.

Further information about the wound management course can be found at <http://www.woundfoundation.org.au>

Family Violence Training for Practice Nurses in Rural and Remote Areas

With thanks from ADGP News 31st May 2006

The Nurses as Family Violence Referral Points Training Programme is an initiative of the Australian Government as part of the Women's Safety Agenda. Under this initiative, Practice Nurses (i.e. registered nurses and enrolled nurses employed or retained by general practices) and Aboriginal Health Workers in rural and remote areas of Australia will be given access to training to assist them to identify and more appropriately refer victims of family violence.

The proposed training package on family violence is being developed in partnership by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) and the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). Jenny Pearson & Associates Pty Ltd has been appointed to conduct national consultations to inform the development and delivery of the training programme.

This consultation project will develop recommendations on existing and potential training delivery options for Practice Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers located in rural and remote areas in each State and Territory and provide advice on training content and delivery, information resources, feedback and communication mechanisms, and post-training support options.

A range of consultation methods will be used including interviews, questionnaires and workshops.

Please contact Jenny Pearson on Freecall 1800 108 700 if you would like to have input to these consultations via telephone interviews or workshops in your local area.

USEFUL INFORMATION FROM BEYOND THE NETWORK

Reducing chronic kidney disease

With thanks to ADGP News 31st May 2006

The Kidney Check Australia Taskforce (KCAT) is a project of Kidney Health Australia committed to reducing the incidence of kidney disease in Australia. It provides accredited General Practitioner education workshops and Practice Nurse Workshops (endorsed by the Royal College of Nursing, Australia). On line learning is also available.

To schedule a workshop for your division or to receive further information please contact:

Chris Archibald, KCAT Project Manager, Kidney Health Australia, on (08) 8334 7501 or via email at chris.archibald@kidney.org.au

RCNA Scholarship Program

With thanks to GPDV Primary Care Update May 2006

Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) encourages eligible nurses to apply for the Nurse Scholarship Program: Rural and Remote Undergraduate Scheme, which opened on 6 May 2006.

Rosemary Bryant, Executive Director Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) said "The Nurse Scholarship Program: Rural and Remote Undergraduate Scheme, which now incorporates the Enrolled to Registered Nurse Scheme, is one of a range of Australian Government initiatives aimed at increasing the number of nurses living and working in rural and remote Australia." The Undergraduate Scheme removes some of the barriers faced by nurses who would like to study in nursing but find the financial cost too high.

Scholarships are now available for the 2007 academic year. "This Scheme is a wonderful opportunity to increase the number of nurses in remote and rural areas at a time when the nursing profession is experiencing critical shortages across the country," Ms Bryant said.

The Undergraduate Scheme is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and is administered by RCNA.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and be enrolled in an entry to practice undergraduate nursing course. They must have a principal home address in an Australian rural and remote area. For undergraduate applicants studies must be undertaken in a full time capacity.

For Enrolled Nurses (Division 2 Nurse, VIC) wishing to upgrade their qualifications to that of a Registered Nurse (Division 1, VIC) studies must be undertaken in a part time capacity. For further information or to download the Application and Guidelines document please visit our website at www.rcna.org.au

To contact us please email scholarships@rcna.org.au or call toll free 1800 11 72 62. The Undergraduate Scheme Applications close at 5pm on Friday 14 July 2006. For further Information: Elizabeth Foley FRCNA, Director of Policy RCNA (B.H) / Tel Number (02) 6283 3400 (A.H.) / Mobile: 0448 822 508.

The Association for Australian Rural Nurses National Conference

The Association for Australian Rural Nurses National Conference "Moving with the Times Contemporary Issues in Rural Nursing practice" will be held on the 25th-27th October 2006 at The Chifley at Lennons in Brisbane.

Please note abstracts close 30th July 2006

For further information contact AARN Secretariat on 02 6162 0340 or see www.aarn.asn.au

Therapeutic Advice and Information Service

With thanks from RCNA e-Bulletin, Volume 1, Issue 3

A telephone service for health professionals providing immediate access to evidence-based information has been established.

Telephone: 1300 138 677 (local call charge) Monday to Friday 9am-6pm EST.

The National Prescribing Service (NPS) Therapeutic Advice and Information Service (TIAS) is a national telephone service for general practitioners, community pharmacists, nurses and other health professionals.

The service provides information such as:

- interactions with other drugs, foods or complementary therapies -and how to manage these,
- side effects, especially unusual ones not included in the product information
- safety of drugs in pregnancy and lactation
- use of drugs for unlicensed indications-is there good evidence to support use?
- Information about new drugs.

For further information go to:

<http://www.nps.org.au/site.php?page=1&content=/resources/content/taisinfo.html>

National Diabetes Week

Diabetes is Australia's fastest growing chronic disease.

9-15th July 2006 is National Diabetes Week.

Information on events in your state can be found at

www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/notice_board/diabetes_week.html

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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 acknowledgement to ADGP.

If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments on, ADGP News please contact Toni Rice on 02 6228 0850 or e-mail trice@adgp.com.au

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