

1. EPC Web Page

Click on to the title above as a shortcut to the EPC web page.

n.b. If you open the EPC web page and do not find the current What's New, click refresh on the top of your screen.

What's New on the EPC Web Page?
EPC Quarterly Activity Report
GPDV April to June Report to DH&AC
Residential Aged Care Reference Group – Meeting Minutes 11 th September 2001
GPDV Residential Aged Care Project Brief – Draft
APNA EPC Training Day Agenda 20 th October 2001

2. EPC Quarterly Activity Report

We are on the final run with EPC reports. The EPC Quarterly Activity Report has been revised for this quarter and is available on the website. The due date is the 22nd of October.

3. GPDV Quarterly Report to DH&AC

It is GPDV's role to collate the information provided by divisions in a Statewide report to DH&AC. I have included the April to June 2001 report in What's New for your perusal. This report includes barriers & enablers to uptake, issues divisions' request GPDV to take up with the Commonwealth. Also the report

includes a quarterly collation of educational activities undertaken by divisions as well as commutative statistics.

4. Residential Aged Care Reference Group

GPDV has convened the peak organisations of the Residential Aged Care Sector to guide the work of a consultant in researching and recommending strategies to promote the use of the EPC items in the Residential Aged Care Sector. The group met for the first time on the 11th of September. *The minutes have been included in What's New.* The group involves:

- Victorian Association of Health & Extended Care (VAHEC)
- Australian Nursing Homes & Extended Care Association (ANHECA)
- National Ageing Research Institute (NARI)
- Residential Care Rights (consumers)
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)
- DHS Aged Care
- DH&AC Aged Care
- DH&AC Primary Care
- GPDV

As part of the 2001-2002 EPC plan GPDV will employ a consultant

- to determine the needs and issues for the residential care sector and GPs in taking up these EPC items,
- to advise on the strategies needed to address the issues.

The key outcome that is expected from this project is to achieve optimum use of EPC

residential care items by GPs in Victoria, and as a consequence increased co-ordination of care for people in residential care facilities. *A draft project brief has been included in What's New.*

5. Australian Practice Nurses Association

I recently met with Samantha Moses who is the National President of the Australian Practice Nurses Association. Samantha is coordinating an information day & workshop on the Role of the Practice Nurse in Enhanced Primary Care.

The Agenda for this meeting on Saturday the 20th October is included in What's New.

Message to divisions from the National President

For the past 12 months, practice nurses in Australia have been taking the first steps to establish the Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA); a national, professional body to represent the interests of practice nurses. We are now pleased to announce that this has been achieved, with the incorporation of the APNA on 10th August 2001.

The concept of the APNA evolved out of the need for a networking and support group to bring together practice nurses who have been previously working in isolation to each other.

The APNA is an association that is owned and run by practice nurses. Many of the Divisions of General Practice and the Victorian branch of the Royal College of General Practitioners have provided support and education to practice nurses. The APNA will develop its infrastructure to compliment the existing networks and to offer a Statewide and National service.

The APNA plans to facilitate professional and educational development opportunities

for practice nurses by working closely with the Australian Divisions of General Practice, SBOs, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal Australian College of Nursing and the Australian Nursing Federation.

The APNA will provide an immensely valuable resource and single point of contact for the government, medical and educational organisations through which they can provide information to, and receive feedback from nurses working in the general practice environment.

The APNA aims to be the first point of contact for general practice nurses. We will meet regularly at the local, state and national level to discuss relevant issues, develop network relationships and assist in the formation of recognised and accredited courses which are specific to practice nursing, thereby forming the building blocks for a career path in practice nursing.

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National President

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6. Advanced Notice EPC Network Meeting – 2nd November 2001

GPDV is developing a Privacy workshop for divisions on Friday 2nd November. As this topic relates to a number of networks various network meetings will be held in the afternoon. As the EPC GP Education Support and Community Linkages Program is coming to a close, it is important that the Network has closure so as to acknowledge the work that has been done and to discuss the long journey ahead in achieving Primary Care Integration.

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