



University of the  
Sunshine Coast

## Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) Information Sheet



### ***Why choose the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) through the Sunshine Coast University?***

The Graduate Certificate is designed to be the most accessible, flexible and affordable model of graduate study available anywhere in Australia.

This is a 4 module Certificate with access to education locally.

The first three modules are offered through the local division of general practice and the fourth module is delivered through distance education by the University of the Sunshine Coast. A number of electives are available for the fourth module.

*The course is very interesting and has increased my understanding of the health system, funding and planning. I have learnt new skills, for example community health profiling, advanced health assessment and I have been able to apply health promotion and education techniques in my practice. I have especially appreciated the opportunity to develop my skills in academic communication.*

*Practice Nurse, South Australia*

### **Course Structure**

#### **Practice Nursing 1**

- The Australian Health Care system
- General Practice- its structure and function
- Primary Health Care
- Health status of Australians
- Community health profiling and needs identification
- Academic communication
- Health education and promotion

#### **Practice Nursing 2**

- The evolving role of the Practice Nurse
- Legal and ethical issues for Practice Nurses
- Critical thinking, reflection and problem solving in evidence based nursing practice
- Service Management: Quality care principals and strategies
- Wound and pain management
- Infection control and sterilisation
- Professional Issues in General Practice context
- Professional information literacy and communication

#### **Advanced Health Assessments**

- Introductory screening and assessments using a holistic approach



Workshop in Adelaide 2006

#### **Electives**

Students can choose one of the University electives to complete their study program. A list of electives currently available can be provided by your division.

## **Requirements to undertake the Graduate Certificate**

It is a requirement to be a Registered Nurse or Enrolled Nurse working in General Practice to undertake the Graduate Certificate.

Enrolled Nurses can complete the first three courses, receiving a certificate of attainment for each course, but are unable to enroll in the fourth course through the University.

Basic computer skills are required, as assignments are usually submitted on line. The first course includes an academic writing skills workshop and assistance is available through the tutor appointed by the local division.

### **Costs**

The fee structure for the first three courses is determined through your local division with an average cost of \$400 per course. The cost of the University of the Sunshine Coast elective will be guided by the postgraduate course fees for the year in which it is undertaken. In 2007 this was \$1500.

Practice nurses may be able to access scholarships funds to assist towards the cost of post graduate study.

### **What if my division is not delivering the Graduate Certificate?**

In 2007 the Graduate Certificate was delivered through divisions in most states. If you are interested in commencing the Graduate Certificate but it is not delivered through your local division, contact the National Coordinator, Toni Rice at AGPN on [trice@agpn.com.au](mailto:trice@agpn.com.au)

### **Course Material**

All course material and readings will be provided by the divisional tutor or coordinator. You will have access to the online library through the Sunshine Coast University. Details on library access will be provided during the introductory workshop.

*The Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice), is a must for nurses in general practice. The course content is relevant to clinical practice. The structure of the course is made so it is easy to follow and complete. The teleconference was relevant and extremely beneficial as it consolidates your ideas with the given readings, making it all easy to apply in your assignments.*

*Everything was clear and concise and easy to follow through. Our mentor was always approachable via mobile or email. Her advice was always welcomed and always available. It didn't seem as though I was doing the course via distance as she always seemed so close.*

*Practice Nurse, Victoria*

The Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) is the first step in continuing further study at Post graduate Diploma and Masters level.



### **Further information**

For further information on the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) contact your local division or the National Co-coordinator, Toni Rice at AGPN on [trice@agpn.com.au](mailto:trice@agpn.com.au) the AGPN Nursing in General Practice Website at <http://www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=27433>