



# Primary Source Nursing in General Practice

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## Principal Network Advisor, Nursing – Lynne Walker

There are many examples of nurses demonstrating leadership and working at advanced levels to support general practice teams and patients in the area of immunisation, wound management, continence care, musculoskeletal care, innovation and quality improvement activities. It is pleasing to see the recognition that is given to these leaders by the Australian Practice Nurses Association Best Practice Awards. The support you receive from your patient's practice teams, Divisions and your families is proof that your contribution is valued by many. Congratulations to all the winners for your inspiring work and dedication in raising the profile of general practice nursing. For more details on the winners and to see their fabulous work, [click here](#)

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## Women's Health

The [National Women's Health Policy 2010 report](#) clearly outlines the importance in preventive as well as chronic aspects of women's health with one of the goals being to ensure the health system is responsive to all women, with a clear focus on illness and disease prevention and health promotion.

Adjusting to life as a mother can be difficult. In fact, for many women, having a baby is the most significant life-changing event they will ever experience. Perinatal depression is the collective term used to describe both antenatal and postnatal depression and Beyondblue now provides free accredited Perinatal mental health online learning for primary professionals. With opportunities to see new mothers at immunisation time, practice nurses are well placed to recognise the symptoms and refer women appropriately. For more information [click here](#)

The development of revised Pregnancy Lifescritps by AGPN will be finalised by the end of June, so keep an eye



[AGPN National Forum 2011](#)

[Click here to view the events calendar.](#)

out for these updated resources. As evidence based tools they provide up-to-date information and advice to pregnant women about the benefits and risks throughout pregnancy of smoking, alcohol use, physical activity and nutrition.

The Practice nurse role to provide preventive care is highlighted in the latest report from Victoria Cytology Register. The Evaluation Of Pap Tests Collected By Nurses In Victoria During 2010, highlights the increasing numbers of pap test being taken by nurses with 59.5% of those undertaken by nurses in general practice. The quality of the pap test is also mentioned as nurses continue to show above average rates of endocervical component when compared to other health providers. For more information [click here](#).

## Domestic and Family Violence Training

Practices can access the Domestic Violence PIP once a Practice Nurse or Aboriginal Health Worker has completed this free two day training [workshop](#), either face to face or on line and the [PIP guidelines](#) provide further details.

As well as giving nurses additional skills to recognise, respond and refer to domestic and family violence, completion of this course will provide income to the practice.

Following the 2011 Federal Budget there are indications that this program is likely to be expanded. As details become known we will forward them to you, so watch this space.



## Rural Health Education Foundation

The Rural health Education Foundation has broadcast television programs for more than 15 years via their satellite network and over the years viewing options have been extended to offer remote and rural health professionals more options to view or listen to these professional development programs. Many programs are webcast simultaneously with the satellite broadcast, meaning professionals can watch and participate in the program from their computer. All programs have also been recorded and uploaded to the Foundation's website to view or to listen to at any time. Upcoming programs include: Smoking an Indigenous Health Challenge; Living Safely Preventing Accidents and Injury in Indigenous Communities; When Pain Persists: Pain Management in Primary Health. For more details [click here](#).

## Immunisation website

The History of Vaccines is an award-winning information and educational website created by The College of Physicians, the oldest professional society in the United States. Topics include: *How vaccines work* and *Top 20*

*Questions about vaccines.* There are other activities designed to improve knowledge of vaccines. [Click here](#) for more details.

## **Innovative Division nurse a HESTA Australian Nursing Awards finalist**

Congratulations to practice nurse Angela Cutting from Limestone Coast Division of General Practice & Beachport Medical Services in South Australia for being nominated as a finalist in the Innovation in Nursing category of the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards. Angela developed a program to improve four year old immunisation rates in rural South Australia by preparing brochures and fridge magnets for a kindergarten enrolment pack for parents, grandparents and other carers. Well done Angela.

## **National Palliative Care Week 23-28 May - Let's chat about dying**

Palliative Care Australia [PCA] and the Australian General Practice Network [AGPN] are partnering to promote awareness of this year's National Palliative Care Week campaign which has the theme '*Let's chat about dying*'. People don't like to talk about dying, let alone plan for the care they would like to receive towards the end of life, and we know that one of the greatest barriers to receiving quality care towards the end of life is a lack of knowledge and preparation.

However, can people afford to not talk about the inevitable?

Despite the discomfort around talking about dying it can be thought provoking. For instance, would you prefer to be in a hospital or at home and who do you want with you?

What's also important is communicating this to family and loved ones.

Palliative Care Australia has produced a number of resources that can help. These can be viewed, downloaded and ordered free of charge from the [PCA website](#).

## **Nurses' roles in child and family health**

Nurses and GPs play a key role in providing universal health services to children and families, often with significant opportunity for early intervention and preventive activities. Despite this important role, little is known about how nurses and GPs operate in providing this type of care.

Associate Professor Virginia Schmied and Dr Michael Fasher aim to address this evidence deficit through their comprehensive, three phase, multidisciplinary **CHoRUS** (Child Health: Researching Universal Services) study. An essential component of the study is gaining insight from nurses, GPs and Divisions regarding their work in child and family health

More details about the study can be attained by contacting Associate Professor Virginia Schmied on 02 96859505 or email [v.schmied@uws.edu.au](mailto:v.schmied@uws.edu.au) or Dr Michael Fasher on [michael.fasher@sydney.edu.au](mailto:michael.fasher@sydney.edu.au)

## Nominations open for the National Primary Health Care Awards

Australia's primary health service providers will now be able to achieve well earned recognition and rewards for outstanding performance through the inaugural [HESTA Primary Health Care Awards](#). HESTA in conjunction with AGPN created these awards to mark excellence in primary health care.

**ME Bank has provided \$30,000 in prize money** for the awards which will culminate in an awards dinner at the AGPN's National Forum on Wednesday 16 November, to which finalists will be flown.

HESTA CEO Ms Anne-Marie Corboy said the awards were designed to recognise innovation and leadership. "These are two fundamental elements of a skilled and responsive health workforce," Ms Corboy said.

AGPN CEO David Butt said the awards were timely in light of the incredible health reform agenda facing this sector. "These awards recognise the role of all those who are usually the first the community turns to when they are sick or injured," Mr Butt said.



There are three categories for nominations:

**Young leader**

**Individual distinction**

**Team excellence**

**Nominations can be made [online here](#).**

## Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)

From June 2011, the University of the Sunshine Coast will be taking over the co ordination of the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) that has previously been run by AGPN. As the numbers of nurses increase and the scope of the practice nurse work expands The University of the Sunshine Coast will deliver the course with revised content and continuing support for the students. AGPN wishes to thank the University of the Sunshine Coast and all of the students and tutors for the support given to this innovative program.

## Emergency Department Nursing scholarship's available

The Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship Support Scheme [AHSSS] is supporting enrolled/registered nurses or midwives working in an emergency department. Funding is also for non-clinical support staff in an emergency department.

Applications open 23 May 2011 for the following:

- Postgraduate study including *but not limited to* Nurse Practitioner

- Continuing Professional Development
- Scholarships for Clinical Placement in an emergency department for:
  - Undergraduate nursing students
  - Postgraduate nursing students and
  - Registered nurses wanting to enhance their experience or change their area of professional practice
  - Emergency department non-clinical support staff wanting to undertake continuing professional development

Closes 1 July 2011 – visit [RCNA Australian Government Scholarships](#) or call 1800 117 262

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