



Primary Source Nursing in General Practice

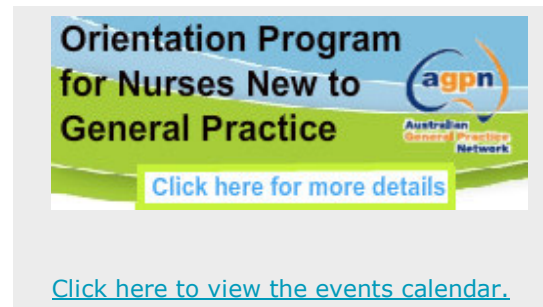
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Principal Network Advisor Nursing – Lynne Walker

Floods across QLD, NSW and VIC have sent the nation into a sense of disbelief that such raging inland waterways can do so much damage to life and property. In WA bushfires have also ravaged a number of communities. The nation's emergency workers are operating under tremendous pressure and extraordinary circumstances during this crisis which is slowly moving in a recovery and rebuilding stage.

Our thoughts are with our nursing and primary care colleagues across Australia affected by flooding and bushfires. AGPN has been updating its website with information about the flood crisis go to:

<http://www.agpn.com.au/media/flood-crisis>



AGPN Program Support Officer

AGPN is pleased to announce that Jimmy Ennett will now be working as the Nursing in General Practice Program Support officer. Jimmy has been working on the DiVERT project but will now be available to work more broadly supporting SBO's and divisions.

Jimmy can be contacted on jennett@agpn.com.au or (02) 6228 0839.

Network update

The boundaries for **Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks** have been announced.

Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks will mean Australians will benefit from access to better coordinated health care and more efficient use of resources and will find it easier to navigate between service providers and health services.

A total of 42 Medicare Local boundaries have been agreed across all states and territories with the exception of

Victoria. The Commonwealth has extended the time for the resolution of the boundaries with the new Victorian Government until the end of January. The first group of Medicare Locals and their associated branch offices will begin operating in mid 2011, with the remainder starting in mid 2012. Medicare Local boundaries were developed following consultations with the states and territories and consideration of approximately 120 submissions from the health sector and the wider community.

[View the Medicare Local boundaries](#)

For further information about primary health care reform go to: <http://www.agpn.com.au/media/Primary-Health-Care-Reform>

Primary Source: Medicare Locals - Transition

The first edition of **AGPN's Primary Source: Medicare Locals - Transition** will be issued in the **first week of February**. This monthly newsletter will provide subscribers with the latest information about the transition process to Medicare Locals throughout the General Practice Network.

Primary Source subscribers who ticked the 'ALL' box will automatically receive the Medicare Locals – Transition newsletter. If you know of anyone else in the primary health care sector who would benefit from receiving this monthly newsletter urge them to go to AGPN's website to subscribe: <http://www.agpn.com.au/media/subscribe>

Nominations for the National Primary Health Care Awards open in March 2011

Australia's frontline 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.

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.

ME Bank has provided \$25,000 in prize money for the awards which will culminate in a gala dinner at the

AGPN's National Forum, to which finalists will be flown.

There are three categories for nominations:

Young leader

Individual distinction

Team excellence

Nominations open in March 2011 and can be made online at <http://www.phcawards.com.au/>

Australian Health Survey 2011

In 2011-13 a representative sample of 50,000 Australians will be asked to complete the Australian Health Survey (AHS), the most comprehensive collection of health data ever undertaken in Australia and for the first time, AHS respondents will also be asked to provide voluntary blood and urine samples to allow testing for nutritional status and for early indicators of lifestyle-related disease, such as high cholesterol levels, and high or low blood glucose levels. This survey will gather an in-depth picture of the health of Australians and give researchers, academics, clinicians, governments and health professionals a rich source of information to help provide the right kind of services and develop ways of helping all Australians to be healthier.

Practice nurses may well be approached by patients requesting information and/or follow up from the pathology results forwarded to them. For further information regarding the health survey and the tests being performed please click [here](#).

Domestic and Family Violence Training

A 2011 timetable for the Domestic and Family Violence workshops is now available on the AGPN website.

The interest in facilitating a workshop from Divisions was overwhelming and we have put together a timetable until June 2011.

Further workshops after that date are dependant on funding and if the funding is available, we will schedule more workshops where possible. The timetable can be found [here](#).



Guidebook for Primary Care Settings

This book provides clinicians with practical tools, resources and information that can be used to implement the

Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care in primary care settings.
Click [here](#) for more information.

Prevention & Control of Infection elearning modules

The Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care has launched online interactive education modules for infection prevention & control. The online interactive education modules are based on content of the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care, and modules include basic epidemiology and statistics, basic microbiology, cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation, infectious agent screening and immunisation of healthcare workers, management of occupational exposures, outbreak management, surveillance and quality improvement. Modules can be accessed [here](#).

Workshops for the implementation of new infection control guidelines

Following the establishment of guidelines outlining a nationally accepted approach to infection prevention and control, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) in collaboration with Northern Territory Health and SA Health, is sponsoring a workshop to support the implementation of the guidelines in the primary health care setting. The workshops are aimed at those working in the primary care sector who may be responsible for implementing the guidelines including clinicians, health managers and ancillary staff. The guidelines provide an evidence-base on which healthcare workers and healthcare facilities can develop detailed protocols and processes for infection prevention and control that are appropriate for their specific situation. The **workshops are free of charge** but prior booking is essential. Go to the Safety and Quality website for more information: www.safetyandquality.gov.au

- **Royal Darwin Hospital – Thursday 24 February** contact: Tain Gardiner Tain.Gardiner@nt.gov.au or Rachel Chen Rachel.Chen@nt.gov.au
- **Citi Centre Building, Adelaide – Tuesday 15 March** contact: SA Health's Michelle Tink (08) 7425 7161 or ics@health.sa.gov.au

Preventing Falls in Older People

Fall-related injuries are one of the leading causes of death and injury in older Australians. For older people (65 years and older) more than 80% of injury related hospital admissions are due to falls and fall related injuries (cited by ACSQHC). Resources including fact sheets are available to assist GPs, carers and others in preventing falls in older people. The **Guidebook for Preventing Falls and Harm from Falls in Older People: Australian Community Care** is available from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Click [here](#) to access the guidebook.

Close the Gap GP Resource Kit

This kit provides a range of resources for practices including practice detail cards on the indigenous chronic disease package, MBS items overview, practice nurses and AHW follow up services as well as how to identify Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patients. The kit can be accessed [here](#).

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council – name change

The Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council (ANMC) has changed its name to the **Australian Nursing & Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)**. Landline telephone numbers have remained the same. Email and web addresses will soon reflect the name change to ANMAC.

Palliative Care Resources

Caresearch the palliative care knowledge network has created a **Nurses Hub**. This is a collection of information, tools and resources developed to form a 'hub' of knowledge. These pages will help to link the specialist and academic evidence base to the information and care needs of those nurses providing practical support to palliative patients in any setting of care. It includes a GP hub which provides information relevant to general practice. Caresearch is available [here](#).

Mandatory Reporting

The Australian Institute of Family Studies has updated a resource sheet for the mandatory reporting of child abuse. The resource sheet examines legal provisions requiring specified people to report suspected child maltreatment to statutory child protection services in Australia. It is available from [here](#).

Congratulations

AGPN wishes to congratulate **Dr Rosemary Mahomed** on the completion of her PhD. Rosemary works as a practice nurse and completed her Doctorate of Philosophy at Griffith University. Her research concluded that practice nurses can provide satisfactory chronic disease management. More information can be obtained from Primary Times December 2010 Issue from [here](#).

Governance Toolkit

With the formation of Primary Health Care Organisations (PHCOs) or Medicare Locals, the opportunity may arise for nurses to be involved in the governance of these organisations. If nurses would like to know more about

governance and its role, the **National Nursing Organisation's Governance Toolkit** is available free of charge to all nurses and can be accessed [here](#).

NiGP Project contact: lwalker@agpn.com.au

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