



Primary Source Nursing in General Practice

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Principal Network Advisor Nursing – Lynne Walker

In this era of health reform it is important for nurses to remain informed of changes and I strongly urge all nurses working in primary care to be aware of the impact these will have on their role, whatever the context of their work. These times create opportunities for nurses to demonstrate their leadership ability whether it be at a National, State, Division or practice level. There are many opportunities for nurses to be involved in networking and education, to share information, tell people about the work that they do and to inspire others. Some of them are listed below.

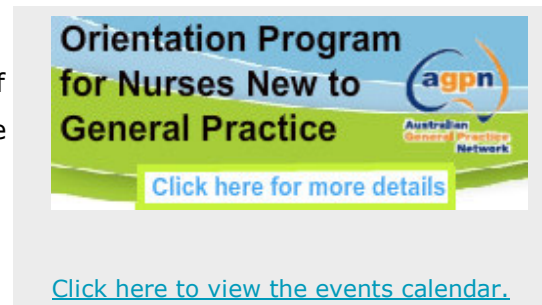
Why not celebrate the work of nurses on **International Nurses Day in May** and take the time to nominate a nursing colleague for the Hesta Primary Health Care Awards 2011?

Nursing and Allied health Scholarship and Support Scheme

Continuing Professional Development including **Nurse Re-entry scholarships** have again been made available to nurses in primary care. The scheme is an Australian Government initiative supporting nurses and midwives to undertake continuing professional education activities, short courses and conferences. **Applications close 8 April 2011.**

Practice nurses are invited to apply for scholarships within the following specialties:

- wound management
- women's health
- Immunisation
- diabetes management
- chronic disease management and illness
- mental health
- Asthma
- cardiovascular care



- obesity and food/nutrition
- health and clinical assessment
- sexual and reproductive health
- competency based clinical skills (e.g. suturing, plastering, ear irrigation, medication administration).

Scholarships up the value of \$1500 will be awarded as a contribution toward the cost of accessing short courses, workshops and conferences/seminars. For more information [click here](#)

Australian Practice Nurses Association Conference- roadmap to the future

The APNA conference is fast approaching and will be held Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th April 2011. For details [click here](#)

Orientation to General Practice workshops

In conjunction with the State Based Organisations, AGPN offers a **National Orientation Workshop for Nurses New to General Practice**. This national two-day entry level program has been designed for nurses in their first 12 months of working in general practice. The program will provide nurses new to general practice with the knowledge that will make their transition into general practice easier. Workshops are being conducted in all states and a schedule of workshops is available from the AGPN website. All nurses attending the workshops are eligible to win a copy of 'General Practice Nursing' and a free registration to the next APNA conference.

To access more information, please click [here](#).

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

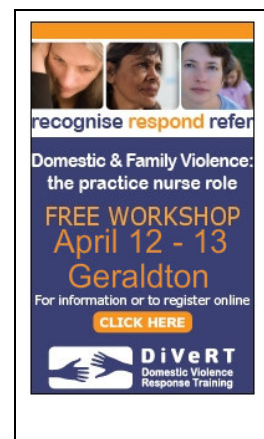
Team excellence

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

Domestic and Family Violence Training

Practices can access the Domestic Violence PIP once the practice nurse or Aboriginal Health Workers has completed this free two day training, either face to face or on line. Details of the workshop can be obtained from [here](#) and details from the PIP guidelines from [here](#).

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



Education

A range of relevant educational opportunities can be obtained from the College of Nursing. Short courses as well as postgraduate courses are available including the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Practice Nursing, primary health care stream. Details can be obtained from the 2011 handbook [here](#).

E health

The RACGP has developed a position statement and fact sheets relating to the electronic health summary. Based on the 4th Edition standards for general practice, the fact sheets outline the core components of a health summary that will be incorporated into an electronic health record. Health information obtained through an accurate and current health summary will ensure safe and high quality care is delivered through access to the e-health summary in an electronic health record.

[More information](#)

Influenza Prevention

GPs and practice nurses wishing to update their immunisation knowledge in preparation for the next influenza season can do so by accessing a free on line learning program. The program covers:

- Module 1 The impact of influenza
- Module 2 Influenza vaccination
- Module 3 Vaccine administration technique and safety

Information is aligned with recommendations in the Australian Immunisation Handbook, 2008 and the program can be accessed [here](#).

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)

ASHM provides a range of training for practice nurses in the area of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections. Included is an online education program and other resources. For more information please contact Emily Wheeler (03) 9341 5244 or Emily.wheeler@ashm.org.au for more information.

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)

From June 2010, 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.

Articles of Interest

Liberating the talents: Helping primary care trusts and nurses to deliver the NHS Plan

In the new era of health reform, Australia has the advantage of taking advantage of international experience. The following article, although dated 2002 is very relevant to Australian and the development of primary care nursing and what this means for the nursing profession. Liberating the talents: Helping primary care trusts and nurses to deliver the NHS Plan can be accessed [here](#).

Following the funding trail: financing, nurses and teamwork in Australian General Practice

[This paper](#) by Pearce, Phillips et al. (2011) explores the current funding for nurses in general practice within Australia. This multi-method study examined how funding structures for practice nurses has affected the role of the nurse. The authors relate the findings to the dilemmas facing policy makers: lack of an evidence base, interdisciplinary relationships and the role of the nurse as a substitute or enhancement. [Abstract précis by PHC RIS]

International Nurses Day 12th May 2011

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every **May 12**, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The theme Closing the gap: increasing access and equity. Further information and a kit are available from the International Council of Nurses [here](#).

Why not take this opportunity to celebrate the work that nurses do and the valuable contribution they make to health care around the world.

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