



Primary Source Nursing in General Practice

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Principal Network Advisor, Nursing – Lynne Walker

I am now able to confirm that AGPN will receive funding from the Department of Health and Ageing for the Nursing in General Practice Program for 2011-2012. Projects over this time will include:

- a workforce survey of nurses in general practice
- workshops and resources detailing the advantages of the Practice Nurse Incentive Program
- development of business cases to support the employment of nurse practitioners
- establishing a framework for implementing nurse led clinics
- funding for five projects to create resources on the difference levels and career opportunities for nurses in general practice
- further funding for education, training and support.

In addition to this, the State Based Organisations will receive funding to support Divisions and Medicare Locals in their states. I extend a welcome to Christine Ashley into the NiGPLG who will be representing the ACT for Nurses in General Practice from the newly transitioned ACT Medicare Local.

Consultation for all projects has been with our Nursing in General Practice Leadership Group [NiGPLG] – formerly known as the NiGP SBO's. All states will have the opportunity to be involved in the development and dissemination of projects that will support nursing in general practice into the future and we will look forward to working with other peak organisations such as the Australian Practice Nurses Association, the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners, the Australian Association of Practice Managers and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

An update on the health reform progress including Primary Care from the Department of Health and Ageing can be found in this recently released document [National Health Reform: progress and delivery](#). I encourage all nurses to update themselves on the health reform progress as it directly affects you.



[AGPN National Forum 2011](#)

[Forum program](#)

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Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP)

From January 2012, all accredited general practices, Aboriginal Medical Services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services may be eligible to access this incentive to offset the costs of employing a practice nurse.

AGPN will be distributing resources shortly to assist practice staff in accessing this funding and maximising the skills of nurses under this new funding stream. For further information contact [Danielle Dalla](#).

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners has produced a new flyer outlining the role of a nurse practitioner. It can be found on their [website](#)

Educational opportunities...

Coordinated Veterans' Care - The Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program is a new way for primary health care providers to assist Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Gold Card holders who have chronic conditions and complex health needs, to better manage their health and to help them avoid an unnecessary admission to hospital. Led by a General Practitioner (GP), with a nurse coordinator, the CVC Program provides ongoing, planned and coordinated primary and community care.

The Coordinated Veterans' Care program has released its [first training module](#) for nurses. Module one has five sections including:

- Introducing the Chronic Care Model
- The Health System
- Improving Quality of Chronic Condition Care
- Chronic Condition Self Management Support
- Community Sector Support.

The training program is accredited. If you have difficulty accessing the online training, a DVD or hardcopy can be accessed. Contact cstapleton@agpn.com.au for more information.

Mind the Gap - AGPN is seeking Expressions of Interest [EOI] from Divisions to deliver a six hour Mind the Gap workshop through the Network. This workshop invitation is intended for practice nurses as well as general practitioners. Please find the guidelines and application for the [EOI](#) Mind the Gap and submit applications to cvickers@agpn.com.au

Online Orientation Program for Nurses New to General Practice –This program has so far rated very highly with a number of participants. On a scale of one to five in which five is very satisfied, we are pleased with the feedback to date:

- Quality of content 4.5
- Quantity of content 4.5
- The modules are relevant to your practice 4.6
- Easy to navigate 3.9
- The resources provided are useful 4.6
- The course is comprehensive 4.5
- You felt engaged throughout the course 4.5

Over 400 people are enrolled in the program and we encourage participants to keep the feedback coming in. You can register [here](#) for this informative course.

University of Queensland CPD - The University of Queensland School of Nursing & Midwifery now offers CPD courses. The Saturday Series will run on selected Saturdays and will offer CPD courses on maintaining your CPD portfolio, First Aid, Clinical Teaching and Cannulation and Phlebotomy. Health professionals may choose to register for one or all of the courses in this series. More information from the [University of Queensland](#)

Cranaplus – Physical assessment [education modules](#) are now available. These modules have been compiled to assist the remote, rural and isolated health practitioner in gaining theoretical knowledge on the various clinical areas of physical assessment and its application to patient health outcomes.

Locum relief for CPD - The Nursing & Allied Health Rural Locum Scheme [NAHRLS] provides assistance with Locum back-fill for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals in rural and remote Australia. For application forms to register as a locum or to access a locum visit their [website](#).

Practice nurses as teachers of GP registrars

CoastCityCountry Training Limited, the local GP regional training provider for the ACT and surrounding regional NSW, with support from ACT Medicare Local and ANU has developed a resource kit to support the valuable role of practice nurses as teachers of GP registrars.

In the past, many practice nurses have provided training to registrars on an ad-hoc basis. The kit aims to support nurses by providing some structure and includes four modules focusing on:

- immunisation
- wound management
- practice standards
- chronic disease management.

It has been successfully trialed in accredited training general practices and has received positive feedback from practice nurses, registrars and GP supervisors. The project was recognised at the recent GPET Convention 2011 in Canberra at a session presented by Dr Rashmi Sharma and RN Jenny Permezel. For more information, please contact Jenny Permezel at ACT Medicare Local on j.permezel@actml.com.au

Conferences

Coming up soon are conferences for the [Australian College of Nurse Practitioners](#) , the Royal College of Nursing Australia [Community and Primary Care Conference](#) and [the Australian Association of Practice Managers](#). All have interesting presentations relevant to primary care.

Divert training

Since 2008 *The Practice Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers as Domestic Violence Referral Points Project* has trained over 1000 health workers in over 40 rural and remote areas. The training has provided Practice Nurses and Indigenous Health Workers with skills to help them recognise, respond, and refer people experiencing domestic or family violence to available community supports. This free training has been expanded to include a wider range of health and allied health and community workers, and is now also available in metropolitan areas. More details from [Lifeline](#)

English language skills registration standard

[The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#) [NMBA] with approval from the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council [AHWMC] has revised the English language skills registration standard for nurses and midwives effective Monday 19 September 2011. The new standard, ensures all registered health practitioners in Australia can communicate effectively by listening, reading and conversing with patients and other health care professionals including being able to write effectively. Visit the website for more details.

Calling all health professionals caring for people with cancer pain!

A new, national guideline and implementation strategy for the assessment and management of cancer pain is being developed and health professionals who care for people with cancer pain are being urged to do a 10-15 minute online [survey](#) about current practice. The researchers are keen to get a representative cross-section of Australian clinicians. *You do not need to have used a guideline to provide useful information.*

We are inviting involvement from physicians, nurses and other health professionals working in Primary Care,

Oncology, Palliative Care and other relevant specialisms to participate in the following activities:

- A national survey of current practice regarding assessment and management of cancer pain and use of guidelines
- Consensus meetings aimed at defining the scope and content of the Australian guideline and implementation strategy
- Online Delphi process aimed at refining guideline and strategy content
- Review of iterative guideline and strategy drafts
- Evaluation of the 'final' guideline and strategy.

For more information about the survey or project more generally, please contact ImPaCCT's Program Coordinator, Dr Tim Lockett, via t.lockett@unsw.edu.au or 02 9514 4861.

Carers Week - October

[Carers Australia](#) and Carers Associations invite all Australians to be part of [Carers Week 2011](#).

Carers Week is Australia's annual celebration of carers and this year will run from Sunday 16 October to Saturday 22 October. Carers Week 2011 aims to raise awareness of carers, the caring role and relationships, and carer supports and services.

Nominations now CLOSED for HESTA PHC Awards

AGPN and HESTA wish to thank the many individuals and organisations that participated in nominating colleagues for the [HESTA Primary Health Care Awards](#) for 2011 and look forward to promoting the finalists very soon.

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

Finalists will be flown to the:

**HESTA Primary Health Care awards dinner at AGPN's National Forum on
Wednesday 16 November**



Primary Source: subscription

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- Immunisation
- eHealth
- Nursing in General Practice
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- Coordinated Veterans' Care Program
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NiGP Project contact: lwalker@agpn.com.au

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