

# Mentoring Connections for Practice Nurses

Issue: December 2007

## Quick Updates ..

### 1:1 Mentors & Mentees

- ✓ Online system now available
- ✓ Mentors—complete your profiles
- ✓ Mentees—find a mentor
- ✓ Start mentoring ...

### Mentoring Groups

- ✓ Mentor and mentee packages now sent
- ✓ First meetings completed
- ✓ Mentoring group agreement done
- ✓ Start mentoring ...

### Mentoring Circles

- ✓ Participant packages now sent
- ✓ First meetings completed
- ✓ Mentoring circle agreement done
- ✓ Start mentoring ...

### Project Management by:



Australian General Practice Network  
(www.agpn.com.au)



Australian Mentor Centre  
(www.australianmentorcentre.com.au)

**Hello and welcome** to the second edition of the *Mentoring Connections for Practice Nurses*. Since the first edition in August 2007 there's been a huge amount of activity in the National Mentoring Pilot for Nurses in General Practice—and all elements of the Pilot are **now underway**.

In this edition, we'll provide an update on where each of you should be in relation to your participation in the Pilot to help you move along. We look forward to getting the mentoring activities underway and remember we are here to support you—give us a call on 1800 100 848. In the next edition of *Mentoring Connects* we'll have heaps of tips on getting your mentoring partnership on track to achieve great goals in 2008!



Please note the Project Office will close between 21 December 2007 and 14 January 2008; however, if you do need assistance—please leave a message and this will be forwarded to a member of the Project Team. We wish all of you a happy and safe festive season, and look forward to working with you throughout 2008.

**The Project Team**

## 1:1 Mentoring Program Update - Where Should I Be?

**The online mentoring support system is NOW AVAILABLE.** All mentors and mentees should have received directions either by email or in the post on how to access the system. Here's a quick snapshot of the process:

### For Mentors:

1. Login to the system
2. Complete mentor profile
3. Await invitation to be a mentor
4. Liaise with prospective mentee
5. Commence mentoring

### For Mentees:

1. Login to the system
2. Complete mentee profile
3. Commence new mentoring project/relationship
4. Select a mentor (either yourself or choose the 'ask for help' button)
5. Liaise with prospective mentor
6. Commence mentoring

### Remember -

the quicker you get into the online system—the more likely you are to get asked to be a mentor OR find a mentor for support!

**Let's aim to have everyone on the system & matched in the Pilot by no later than 30 January 2007!**

**If you have not receive directions—please contact our office ASAP!** We'll be monitoring the system closely—so please do not hesitate to contact the Project Office on 1800 100 848 or [nigp@australianmentorcentre.com.au](mailto:nigp@australianmentorcentre.com.au) so that we can assist you.

**PS. Congratulations to those mentees & mentors already online and matched! Fantastic effort! 😊😊**



## Mentoring Groups & Circles - Where Should We Be?

*'The thing that I find most helpful is the amount of knowledge that we all have collectively, each one of the 6 of us share our thoughts and then Chris and Jan pool all the relevant information and draw up a list of information that we can use to greatly improve skills when doing CDM.'* (Mentoring Circle Participant)

Mentoring groups and circles should now be underway. Please check that you have done the following:

Mentoring Groups:	Mentoring Circles:
✓ Received and read information package	✓ Completed online education tutorial
✓ Completed development activities (eg. NICE analysis)	✓ Received and read information package
✓ Conducted first meeting	✓ Completed development activities (eg. NICE analysis)
✓ Completed Mentoring Group Agreement	✓ Conducted first meeting
✓ Sent a copy of the agreement to the Project Office	✓ Completed Mentoring Circle Agreement
✓ Ready for next meeting in early 2008	✓ Sent a copy of the agreement to the Project Office
	✓ Ready for next meeting in early 2008

The Project Office will make contact with each Group Mentor and Mentoring Circle Point of Contact by 30 January 2008 to check that you have all the materials you need and are underway. **Thank you to those groups and circles who have already sent in their agreements to the Project Office—it's wonderful to see that you're underway!** ☺

## General Updates: Further Training Dates & Quick Links ...

Thank you to those of you who joined in our tele-training sessions. In total we had some 10 people from across Australia dial in and work through two segments from the one-day workshop by telephone. It was great fun to work with you and to get your feedback. In 2008, we'll run one final segment of tele-training on the following dates (you need to dial-in to both):

- **Tele-training Session 1:** Tuesday 19 February 2008 @ 11.30 am EST (60 minutes duration)
- **Tele-training Session 2:** Thursday 28 February 2008 @ 1.30 pm EST (60 minutes duration)

As you commence the year, we'll also be publishing the schedule of support activities which will include the monthly newsletter, telephone support for mentors, further online education modules, online discussion forums—and more. Don't forget that the Pilot now continues to October 2008—so we hope that you'll have the opportunity to meet on a monthly basis between now and then. Also—just a reminder that you should all now have a card to login to the website. If you do not have one yet—please contact the Project Office and let us know and we'll send one back to you in the post.

**Plus—quick link!** Are you new to General Practice and need to know more about the role of the Practice Nurse? Go to this link: [www.agpn.com.au/nigprecrUIT/](http://www.agpn.com.au/nigprecrUIT/) to access the Nursing in General Practice Recruitment and Orientation Resource.

## Project Contact Details

**Freecall:** 1800 100 848

**Email:** [nigp@australianmentorcentre.com.au](mailto:nigp@australianmentorcentre.com.au)

**AGPN Website:** [www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=27437](http://www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=27437)

**Project Website:** <http://nigp-nmp.webexone.com> (guest access available)

## Project team contacts:

Julie Porritt, Toni Rice and Beta Chakraverty (AGPN—Canberra)  
Gilly Johnson, Emma Morton and Bruna Bellu (AMC—Melbourne)



## Check out this article ...

Mills JE, Francis K, Bonner A. The accidental mentor: Australian rural nurses developing supportive relationships in the workplace. *Rural and Remote Health* 7 (online), 2007: 842.

Available from: <http://www.rrh.org.au>

**Next edition** of *Mentoring Connections* for Practice Nurses due out January 2008 ...