

Victorian Nurse Practitioner Project (VNPP)

Phase 4 Round 4.1 – Rural Nurse Practitioner Service Planning

Final Reports

About the Victorian Nurse Practitioner Project

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has been supporting the implementation of the NP in Victoria through the Victorian Nurse Practitioner Project (VNPP). The VNPP is currently in Phase 4 – Integration and Sustainability. In this phase the focus is on enhancing the delivery of health care in the Victorian public health system through the effective and strategic integration of sustainable models of NP practice.

About Round 4.1 NP Service Planning

As part of the 2007-08 rural workforce strategy funding was approved to support up to sixteen (16) rural health services to undertake Nurse Practitioner (NP) service planning. In 2008, an Expression of Interest process identified 15 health services and one-off funding was provided to assist health services with the activities to develop an integrated plan for NP services.

The objectives of the VNPP Phase 4 Round 4.1 funding were to:

- Assist rural health services to develop service plans for NP services that are strategic, sustainable and integrated with broader health service direction.
- Ensure plans for NP services are aligned with relevant existing organisational, local/regional and state wide service plans and/or workforce plans.
- Facilitate collaboration between health services in the development and implementation of NP models, and
- Build engagement, collaboration and consultation with local stakeholders to support the NP role.

Rural NP Service Planning Collaborative

Nurse Policy Branch supported the Round 4.1 activities by establishing and facilitating a Rural NP Service Planning Collaborative, conducted mainly through electronic and telecommunications (email, teleconferencing) modes. Based on previous rounds it was found that a collaborative approach to NP development and implementation can assist individual sites and contribute to the success of projects.

Participating sites

The sites undertaking Round 4.1 service planning were:

Region	Health Services
Loddon Mallee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Echuca Regional Health• Kyabram District Health Services• Rochester & Elmore District Health Service• Mallee Track Health & Community Service
Grampians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hepburn Health Service• Stawell Regional Health• Rural Northwest Health• Wimmera Health Care Group
Hume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alpine Health• Yarrawonga District Health Service• Upper Murray Health and Community Service
Gippsland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Gippsland Hospital• West Gippsland Health Care Group
Barwon South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colac Area Health collaborating with Barwon Health

As the Round 4.1 final reports and service plans are completed they are made available to other health services via the Department of Human Services nursing website. These plans will form a body of knowledge for organisations that plan to implement the nurse practitioner role and will continue to inform the ongoing implementation of the nurse practitioner role in Victoria at both a health service provider level and system wide.

The service plans contain a wealth of different approaches to implementing the NP and are intended to be a resource to others.

Note: The service plans reflect the position of the individual health services and are not necessarily the view of the Department of Human Services.

Need further Information?

- For more information about the Department of Human Services, Victorian Nurse Practitioner Project, go to <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/furthering/practitioner.htm>
- Enquiries about individual service plans/final reports should be directed to the relevant health service.

February 2009