

Office of the Chief Nurse – Communiqué

August 2009

Nurse Policy Branch: Building capacity and capability in the Victorian nursing workforce.

Student nurses have been employed in Victorian (and Australian) health services in various roles/capacities for many years. Student nurses in paid employment arrangements assist health services to meet operational needs whilst consolidating their knowledge and skill in safe and supportive environments working with experienced nurses and midwives across a range of service settings.

The Department of Health is embarking on a new pilot program with the ANF and other key stakeholders to look at undergraduate nursing students employed as health assistants. The project will also map and evaluate current patterns and benefits of student employment in various roles in public health services.



Adj Professor Belinda Moyes
Director, Nurse Policy Branch/Principal Nurse Advisor

State Nursing & Midwifery Excellence Awards:

This week is your last chance to nominate an exception nurse or midwife that you work with for the 2009 awards!

Nominations close **12 noon Wednesday 2 September 2009**, so don't miss out!

The seven awards include a \$10,000 scholarship each to allow the nominee to further develop and promote their initiative and the presentation ceremony will be held on **16 September 2009** at 5.30 pm.

INPB Contact: lisa.brown@dhs.vic.gov.au (03) 90967827
www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/awards

VNPP key dates:

- VNPP funding is now available to establish NP models and the appointment of NP candidates, in eligible oncology services, mental health and alcohol and drug services. Application form and guidelines are available on the *Nursing in Victoria* website. Applications close on **7 September 2009** and an industry briefing for successful sites will be held on **14 October 2009**.
- VNPP scholarships for eligible Nurse Practitioner candidates for academic studies undertaken in 2010. Applications will open in **late October 2009** and close early in December. Applicants will be notified of the outcome early in January 2010. This will be the only round of NP scholarships offered in 2010.

NPB Contact: jo.begbie@dhs.vic.gov.au

www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/furthering/practitioner

Nurse Education Forum diary date

The 2009 Nurse Education Forum will be held on **22nd October 2009**. The forum will provide an opportunity for those with nurse education responsibilities to get together with other educators from around Victoria and share ideas, strategies and challenges.

The theme of 2009 forum is "Working Well Together" and will focus on the role of the nurse educator when working with participants, within their organisation and with partner organisations.

Program details and registration information will be provided by email to DONs and educators in September 2009.

http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/whats_new

Office of the Chief Nurse Communiqués are produced monthly for Directors of Nursing of public health services. Communiqués are also available on the *Nursing in Victoria* website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/principal>

Department of Health

