

Office of the Chief Nurse Communiqué

April 2011

Celebrating nurses and midwives in 2011.

Each year in May, across the world there are celebrations to mark the significant contribution that nurses and midwives make to people's health and lives. I am sure your preparations are well underway.

As we approach May this year, I have been reflecting on the way nursing and midwifery practice are constantly changing, evolving and responding to patient needs and service demands. The 2010 State Nursing and Midwifery Excellence awards highlighted for me that nurses and midwives are at the forefront of change – they are innovators and trail blazers – but always with the best outcomes for patients and the community in mind.

Never-the-less there is evidence that industry and professional conventions remain barriers to exploring the full potential to use nurses and midwives effectively to improve access to safe and quality services.

So over the next 12 months we will be focusing on enhancing understandings of contemporary nursing and midwifery practice. This is in keeping with the themes underpinning both International Nurses Day and the International Day of the Midwife in 2011.

The ICN affirms that "...nurses have an important role in achieving health equity..." Similarly, the ICM is asking midwives and their supporters to promote the message that "the world needs midwives now more than ever". Only 63% of births in the developing world are attended by skilled health workers. In southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa the rates are as low as 45%.

Nurses and midwives both here and overseas really do make a difference to access to services, to health outcomes and to people's lives.

We look forward to hearing about your celebrations!

RCNA: http://www.rcna.org.au/events/ind_2011
www.internationalmidwives.org/Home/tabid/205/Default.aspx

Contemporary nursing & midwifery practice

We are launching a suite of activities to heighten industry awareness of **Contemporary Nursing and Midwifery Practice**. This includes grants to host a "Showcase Event"; publication grants and a range of projects to more fully understand "advanced practice" developments, new models of practice, nurse/midwife led services and the opportunities to develop nursing practice to meet local service needs.

More information will be available on the Nursing in Victoria Website: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/>
Contact: Christine.breakwell@health.vic.gov.au

Snap your local celebrations

Our media unit is inviting health services to send two of the "best pics" of their International Nurse and/or Midwife Day celebrations to media unit to be included as a feature story in the June edition of Health Matters. The format required is high resolution .jpg between 1-3 MG.

A short description (site and event etc) for the picture caption would be appreciated. Your contributions by the **20 May 2011** would be welcome.

Contact: paula.parker@health.vic.gov.au

NMBA registration renewal - Reminder!

Nursing and midwifery registration is due for renewal by **31 May 2011**. On-line registration renewal is now available. Your assistance in encouraging all staff to renew on-line and early is appreciated.

Nurses and midwives in Victoria recently renewed for less than 12 months. This was to align all health practitioners across Australia to common renewal dates. To clarify this, updated FAQs are now available at:

Weblink: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/>
Web link: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au>

Return to Nursing

Applications for the Return to Nursing program are due **26 May 2011**.

Contact: Catherine.Duck@health.vic.gov.au
Web link: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/returning>

Education & Training

Infection prevention on-line training

On-Line interactive education modules for staff who undertake infection prevention as part of other clinical roles or staff in small healthcare facilities are now available. Developed by the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care they are available on their website.

<http://infectionprevention.e3learning.com.au/>