

Office of the Chief Nurse – Communiqué

February 2010

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

Please circulate me to wards/areas where nurses and midwives work in your organisation!

The reform proposals for system change announced this week at a federal level remind us that nothing stands still in the health sector. In this climate, effective communication is especially important but so too is the need to ensure that we regularly review practice standards and policies in terms of evidence, impact and outcomes.

With this in mind I would like to take this opportunity to flag that the Guidance Note for the Verification of Death by Nurses and Paramedics has been revised in accordance with the Coroners Act 2008 and following feedback from the sector. The revised documents will be on the Nursing in Victoria website shortly.

I would also like to alert you to a joint DON Forum (Connections and Directions series) that I will be convening with the Victorian and Tasmanian Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery on **22 April 2010**.

At this forum we will discuss the research to develop a nationally agreed competency assessment tool for undergraduate nursing students. This work (being led by Professor Patrick Crookes) is nearing completion and is an exciting development that affects all health services.



Adj Professor Belinda Moyes
Chief Nursing Advisor

Bringing Nurses Back into the Workforce (BNBW)

Revised Fact Sheets, Application and Declaration Forms are now available from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing website at: <http://www.health.gov.au/backtonursing>

Health services are reminded that reporting of the BNBW Minimum Data Set is scheduled for **30 April 2010** and that they are responsible for making the bonus payments to nurses as they fall due.

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

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

Victorian Nurses & Midwives, Making a Difference – an amateur Photographic Exhibition

To celebrate both International Nurses and Midwives Days and in recognition that 2010 is the International Year of the Nurse, Nurse Policy is hosting an amateur Photographic Exhibition.

Recent photographs of Victorian nurses or midwives (or ex nurses/midwives) that acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of their work, their families or their communities are invited to be part of this amateur exhibition.

The details of the exhibition including the terms and conditions will be available shortly and submissions will open in **March 2010**.

NP Contact: Lisa.broun@health.vic.gov.au

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/photoexhib>

VNPP Publications Grants 2010

The 2010 round of VNPP Publications Grants will open in **March 2010**. Grants of up to \$4,000 (GST-exclusive) will be offered to eligible health services to support the development of papers for publication in peer reviewed industry and professional journals or for presentation at professional or industry conferences.

As with the 2008 round, grants are being offered to support the publication of papers/presentations that have a focus on exploring sustainability and integration aspects of NP implementation such as NP service planning, change management, internship issues and sustainability of the NP role.

The 2010 Grant guidelines and applications will be available shortly at:

www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing/furthering/practitioner/vnpp-publication-grants

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