News from the Research Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Practice (RCNMP)

Presentation in Turkey

In celebration of the International Nurses and Midwifery Week in Istanbul, Turkey, the Director of our RCNMP, Professor Violeta Lopez was invited by the President of the Turkish Nursing Association, Professor Elizabeth Herdman Dean of the Faculty of Nursing at Koç University and Dr Aralya Sarican from the Amerikan Hastanesi to give an oration entitled, “Establishing a research centre of excellence for nursing and midwifery practice: closing the gap between evidence and practice.”

Professor Lopez was also invited to visit the Florence Nightingale museum at the Selimiye Barracks in Istanbul. During her visit, she was also asked to talk to university nursing and midwifery students about nursing education, practice and research in Australia, as well as to discuss the possibility of a staff and student exchange with University of Canberra where Professor Lopez has an Adjunct Professorship appointment. Professor Lopez also had the opportunity to talk to the hospital staff on practical strategies for implementing evidence into practice and present examples of research projects that the ACT Health Directorate Research Centre for Nursing and Midwifery Practice have conducted.

June Delaney to visit in Canberra

The RCNMP is pleased to announce that, June Delaney, Senior Nurse for Care of the Elderly, within NHS Lanarkshire, Scotland, has accepted our invitation to visit Canberra. June is a National Education for Scotland (NES) Dementia Champion, and is presently seconded two days per week to Practice Development as a facilitator for Older Adult. She is involved in this work through being an accredited auditor by the “Iris Murdoch” Centre for Dementia Friendly Environments.

During her visit she will be presenting a special Forum entitled: How organisations such as acute hospitals can plan for and develop environments that provide a dementia friendly environment.”

It will be held at the Canberra Hospital Auditorium on the 27th June from 2-4pm followed by light refreshments. This forum is relevant not only for clinical nurses but for all sectors of the Health industry including those in management, education, and academia.

Research and Practice Development Forums

Everyone is welcome to attend these forums. Please come along and hear about the work your colleagues have been undertaking to improve clinical practice and patient outcomes. The upcoming Forums are as follows:

18th July – Susan Aitkenhead: How we articulate the Quality Nursing Story for Canberra Hospital and Health Services.
   Irene Lake: Pressure Injury Prevention: Whose responsibility is it?

22nd August – Amanda Heap: Too little, too late!
   Respecting Patient Choices program for Home Based Palliative Care patients at Clare Holland House.

Pressure injury Prevalence Survey (PIP12)

The pressure injury prevalence for 2012 was conducted the week commencing 26th March. Data collection at the Canberra Hospital was done using iPads which streamlined the data entry and analysis process. All data from Community and Calvary Healthcare ACT-Public has been entered into SPSS and analysis has commenced. Preliminary data will be presented at the June 20th forum. The lucky recipients who participated in the PIP survey to receive the complimentary registration for the 2nd Australian Capital Region Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference are Claire Steed and Marina Boogaerts.

2nd Australian Capital Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference

Abstracts submission date has been extended until the end of June as has the early bird registration rate. Please refer to rcnmp.com.au
During International Nurses and Midwives Week there was cause for more applause when the Chief Nurse, Veronica Croome, announced at the Excellence Awards Ceremony, the launch of the Jennifer James Memorial Honours Degree Scholarship.

The ACT Government Health Directorate (via the Nursing and Midwifery Office) in partnership with the University of Canberra, have undertaken to create an annual Nursing Honours Degree Scholarship. The aim of the Scholarship is to support a graduate nurse or midwife to undertake a graduate honours degree year with the focus on clinical leadership.

This scholarship has been created as a memorial to the outstanding contribution of Emeritus Professor Jennifer James AM (1937-2011). Many of you may well remember Professor James and have your own memories. She was a well known, respected and admired member of the Canberra nursing community whose energy and passion for nursing and nursing education will long be remembered.

Professor James impressive list of credentials include:

- Twenty years as a nurse, becoming Australia’s youngest appointed Director of Nursing at the age of 34, and the first to be called so (DON) at the Royal Canberra Hospital (1972-1982).
- Her passion for education saw her as first Head of Nursing Science at the Canberra College of Advanced Education (CCAE) now known as the University of Canberra (UC).
- Her development and implementation of nursing curricula led to the University of Canberra being one of the first Australian institutions to offer an undergraduate bachelor degree in nursing.
- She was instrumental in bringing the transfer of nurse education from the hospital to the university. As such she was recognized nationally and internationally receiving a special Professorship in Nursing in 1994, Member of the Order of Australia Medal for her service to Nurse Education in 1996 and appointed an Emeritus Professor following her retirement in 1998.

Unfortunately, Professor James husband, Irwin Bogg, was unable to be present when the announcement of the Scholarship was made as he is currently travelling overseas. However, he has conveyed overwhelming gratitude that his wife, Emeritus Professor Jennifer James, will be honoured and remembered with the creation of such a wonderful scholarship.

The Jennifer James Memorial Scholarship will commence with the academic year in 2013 and is valued at $20,000.

2nd Australian Capital Region Nursing & Midwifery Research Conference
Navigating the journey to quality care

Wednesday 10th October – Friday 12th October 2012
Hyatt Hotel, Canberra
www.rcnmp.com.au
Hello everyone,

Life after International Nurses and Midwives Week seems somewhat slower in comparison to what was a great time of celebration and reflection of our professions. We have come a long way from the early days of celebration, particularly here in Canberra when Awards were presented in a small room at the Legislative Assembly eight or so years ago to our recent celebration where more than 600 nurses, midwives, family and friends joined in a “Logies” style evening of fun and festivity. Congratulations to all those nominated for recognition this year.

Of course, this leads nicely into what I would like to talk about in this month’s newsletter. As nurses and midwives we work daily to promote the health of our communities, guide the birthing and care of infants, and care for the sick and dying. Like Florence Nightingale and many nurses and midwives before her, those in our professions have persevered in times of adversities such as war, famine, economic hardship and recurrent staff shortages to meet the needs of the public for health care.

It’s fair to say that we are the “pillars of quality and safety” in our health care systems. We are the advocates for underserved populations, patients and their families. For those of us who have had ready access to formal education and provide care in secure and well-supplied health care systems, it is critical that we recognize our privileged positions. With privilege comes a responsibility to not only celebrate, but to also remember and advocate for the worldwide advancement of nursing and midwifery and the health of humanity. While nurses and midwives are a diverse group, we share this commitment. Respecting the rights of others, our nursing, midwifery and health care colleagues and most importantly, our patients, is an essential ingredient for securing health.

We walk on the paths made by the generations of nurses and midwives who sacrificed and toiled before us. Celebrating our history and accomplishments does not necessarily pave the road for others although it does hopefully teach us certain lessons. Remember that while many nurses are trusted and privileged, many of our fellow nurses and midwives struggle around the world for education, recognition, and the most basic access to health care system resources. Remember too that many of our nursing and midwifery colleagues, like Nightingale and others, are still caught in the cross fires of war or civil disturbances, and the economic, social and environmental threat to health that these bring.

This year, as we celebrated, we took time to reflect on and join in the unity of our professions. Some wards chose to focus on the cultural diversity that exists among members of their health care team, with colorful displays of uniforms and an array of food from around the world. One ward even hosted a bollywood dancing show to reflect the cultural heritage of some of the staff.

The theme for 2012 is “Closing the Gap: From Evidence to Action” and each year, the International Council of Nurses sets a theme that reflects current health issues and challenges nurses and midwives to reflect on our practice. How timely that this year, the ICN has issued a worldwide theme that challenges us to identify what evidence to use, how to interpret the evidence, and whether the anticipated outcomes are sufficiently important to change practice or to use precious resources that may be needed elsewhere.
Nurses and midwives are increasingly regarded as key decision makers within the health care team. We are expected to use the best available evidence in our judgments and decisions.

We are indeed fortunate in Australia as our resources relative to those of our neighbors, are generally adequate to meet the needs of our patients. Rarely are we asked to ration or redirect what we have but when this has been the case, using evidence to support what we do and how we do it, is a fundamental necessity to our decision making and to the decision making of others.

Decision making however, is complex. To suggest that nurses and midwives just provide care and equate this to task performance is to overlook a central feature of our roles within the health care team. The value of championing nurses’ and midwives’ decision-making is ultimately for the patient’s benefit, although it also offers advantages for developing professional identity.

We have seen that the clinical landscape influences the decisions made about patients, and that this has been dominated in the past by the medical model.

Nurses and midwives are with the patient for 24 hours a day, and our way of understanding patients generates an appreciation of the patient’s journey as they progress though the experience of clinical care and treatment.

Nurses and midwives celebrating and sharing innovations in clinical practice are high on my priority as Chief Nurse. While our week long celebration provided us with an opportunity to come together and to be congratulated on our hard work and to shine a spotlight on our achievements, I believe there is great work being undertaken on a daily basis that exemplifies the passion and expertise we share within and across our professions and this is worthy of ongoing celebration. I encourage each of you to attend local in-service education, seminars and Practice Development Forums to hear of this good work and to celebrate what I believe are outstanding achievements from within our incredible professions.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have ideas or stories you would like to share. My email is: veronica.croome@act.gov.au

5 May: Governor General’s Morning Tea

This year the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, held a morning tea for ninety-seven of ACT’s nurses and midwives to celebrate International Nurses and Midwives Week. Sixty three of the attendees were nominees for the Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

The weather gods were smiling and it was a stunning autumnal morning, so much so that after her welcome speech, the Governor-General invited the attendees out into the beautiful garden to enjoy the sunshine. It was a wonderful morning, where Her Excellency mingled with the attendees, for a short time even carrying her 2 year old grandson. Ms Bryce’s speech applauded the wonderful work that nurses and midwives do and her passion for the professions was very evident. The morning tea was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the fantastic work the nominees have achieved throughout the last year.

7 May: Midwifery Luncheon

The luncheon, held at Canberra Hospital, was attended by around fifty midwives with a short address given by the ACT Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Ronnie Croome.

8 May: Commemorative service at the Australian War Memorial

Each year since the ACT started to celebrate International Nurses and Midwives Week, a wreath laying and remembrance ceremony has been held at the Australian War Memorial (AWM). The ceremony is to honour those nurses and midwives who have lost their lives in serving our country and those who have participated in service both nationally and internationally.

These ceremonies have always been extremely moving and this one was no exception. Well over 200 nurses and supporters attended the ceremony this year on a beautiful autumn day in the Western Courtyard. The attendees were welcomed by Veronica Croome, our Chief Nurse, who spoke about the Australian Service Nurses National Memorial on Anzac Parade.
International Nurses and Midwives Week events (continued)

The commemorative address was given by Lt Col Dominic Wade, Defence Force Nursing. Lt Ct Col Wade is a Perioperative nurse who talked about the many conflicts and peace keeping missions that Defence Force Nurses have participated in and what some of that work entailed. Wreaths were then laid by representatives of the nursing and midwifery community in the ACT.

Following on from the ceremony, the attendees were invited to enjoy afternoon tea and a private viewing of the AWM’s “Nurses – Zululand to Afghanistan” Exhibition.

The exhibition explores the involvement of nurses from the first known Australian in the Zulu War of 1879, right up to the experiences of the male and female nurses serving in recent conflicts and peace keeping operations. This exhibition is open to the public until 17 October, 2012.

10 May: Excellence Awards Ceremony

This year’s Excellence Awards Ceremony was again another superb event, applauding the wonderful work our nurses and midwives do each year. There were almost 90 nominations for 7 categories this year and the selection process again was challenging due to the high quality of the nominees.

Over 590 nurses, midwives, family and friends attended the gala event where they were entertained by a jazz band, Light Blue Yvie and by Shortis and Simpson. Shortis and Simpson wrote a parody about nurses and midwives that had the audience laughing and cheering. Our own Grant Carey-Ide did his usual fine work as the MC for the night – the 8th year in a row he has fulfilled this role.

The highlight of the night was the announcement of the 8 winners of the various categories. The Chief Minister Ms Katy Gallagher presented awards along with senior nurses and the major sponsors.

9 May: The Great Debate

Lights, Camera, Action!

There was plenty of all of these in the TCH auditorium on the 9th May 2012. Nurses, Executives, Lecturers, Consumers, and Students all vied for the attention, and the votes, of the packed audience. The hot topic “Will we really need nurses in the future” was vigorously debated by the two teams and the resulting maelstrom was expertly moderated by Maestro Karen Cook. It is no surprise that the affirmative team won!

Bookings are being taken for the 2013 debate and a hunt is underway in Canberra for a venue large enough.

If you missed out seeing the extra terrestrial student nurse, or that “Interprofessional Kiss”, you can borrow the DVD from the Library. The Nursing and Midwifery Office will also accept your order for the latest mobile device, the “IRonnie”.

Affirmative team (top): Donna DeSilva, Ronnie Croome & Tarkan Tez. Opposing team (below): Professor Frank Bowden, Shane Lenson & Darlene Cox.
The 2012 Nursing and Midwifery Award winners are:

- Assistant in Nursing of the Year: Doris Mutie from Morshead Home.
- Graduate Nurse/Midwife of the Year: Rosemary Rummery from Hospital in the Home, (CH&HS).
- Enrolled Nurse of the Year: Leanne Lupton from Ward 10A (CH&HS).
- Primary Health Care Nurse of the Year: Maree Brown, Asthma Educator, Child & Youth Services, (CH&HS).
- Nurse of the Year: Margaret Flaherty from Cardiac Rehabilitation, (CH&HS).
- Midwife of the Year: Elizabeth Bishop from Calvary Health Care ACT.
- Director-General’s Encouragement Award: Timothy Bool, from Hospital in the Home, (CH&HS).
- Team of the Year: Chronic Care Program, Canberra Hospital and Health Services (CH&HS).

11 May: Research Forum

The final events of the Nursing and Midwifery week of celebrations were held on Friday 11th May: a workshop and a forum facilitated by Professor Cath Rogers-Clark. Both events used the ICN theme of ‘Closing the Gap: From Evidence to Action’. These events provided attendees with insights into how we, as nurse and midwife clinicians, managers, researchers and educators can better work toward implementing evidence based practice in order to provide improved patient outcomes.

Professor Rogers-Clark is the Head of Department (Nursing & Midwifery) and Sister Elizabeth Kenny Chair in Nursing at the University of Southern Queensland and she is also the Director of the Australian Rural and Remote Evidence Based Practice Centre – a Joanna Briggs Institute Collaborating Centre. Her research interests incorporate women’s health, especially their emotional health and responses to living with illness. She teaches Qualitative Research Methods, Research Methodology for the Human Sciences, and Nursing Research. Interesting presentations were also provided by Judith Barker, Nurse Practitioner, Community Care; Assoc. Professor Daniel Nichols, Clinical Chair in Mental Health Nursing, University of Canberra and Margaret Broom, Research Nurse, Division of Women, Youth and Children.

Both events were informative and encouraging as they gave insights into how we as nurses and midwives can better work toward implementing evidence based practice in order to provide improved patient outcomes.

Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife Level 2 Personal Classification Applications

Two more rounds of applications will be held in 2012. If you meet the criteria and wish to submit your application for upgrade to a personal RN/RM level 2, information is available on: http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10083061&pid=1153873931 or call Nurse Advisor – Careers Advancement on 02 6205 2370. The closing date for applications for: Round 3 – 31 August 2012. Round 4 – 23 November 2012.