



# INP / APN NETWORK BULLETIN

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**Editor: Andrea Renwanz Boyle**

## Greetings from the Chair:

Hello (Hei) All,

Our conference in Helsinki, Finland on the 18 – 20 August “Advanced Nursing Practice: Expanding access and improving healthcare outcomes” is fast approaching. At the start of the year registration had reached just over 500. The scientific committee had a very difficult task of choosing abstracts from a very high standard of submissions from over 33 countries. There are close to 200 oral presentations, 8 workshops and approximately 350 posters that have been accepted. This is shaping up to be our biggest conference to date. Please register for the conference soon. **Early Bird registration deadline is May 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Again in Helsinki we will hold a silent auction to raise funds to support nurses from developing countries to attend future INP/APNN conferences. We invite all nursing delegates to donate an item from your home country (state/province). Items donated at past conferences included pieces of art, jewellery, text books, handmade purses, sweatshirts and many more fabulous items. The donated items are displayed and people can place bids on them. The highest bid wins the item. As noted, the money raised in the silent auction goes to support our Grant programme in assisting nurses from developing countries to attend our next conference.

Our gratitude goes to past donors and winners. The fundraiser event at the 2010 Brisbane conference was a great success, which led to us awarding Ossama Zaqqout from Jordan as the successful candidate which allowed him to attend the 2012 London conference. Ossama’s motivation and willingness to contribute to the global network has since led him to become the Chair of the Health Policy subgroup.

Any questions relating to either the grant or the silent auction please contact our effervescent and dedicated Chair of the Fundraising subgroup Maureen Horsley at [Mrhjch@gmail.com](mailto:Mrhjch@gmail.com).

See you soon or, as the Finnish would say, *nähdään pian*.

Anna Green, Chair  
International NP/APN Network  
International Council of Nurses

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## **Featured Countries**

### **Australia**



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### **Nurse Practitioners in Air Force Health**

Work is underway within the Royal Australian Air Force to add capability to the current health care model. In Australia, Nurse Practitioners (NPs) have been providing capabilities to the civilian workforce and bridging many gaps in service needs with great success. The Royal Australian Air Force provides health care in austere and complex environments and in situations of crises arising from international political unrest and instability. The Air Force Health is beginning to embrace the challenges ahead by ensuring a well-trained and well equipped health care workforce.

Nurse Practitioners exist in the reserve element of the Royal Australian Air Force only, Work is underway to review ways of applying this capability into Air Force health practice.

The professional attributes required in Nurse Practitioners originally submitting Defence applications focused on abilities to fulfil the need for health care options in rural and remote Australia during the late 1990s. Advanced practice within an autonomous, yet collaborative model, allowed NPs to immerse themselves in varied health care environments, complementing the existing structure, whilst bridging the historical gap between nursing and medicine. NPs have filled a service capability gap with significant potential in the many international military models, an attractive adjunct within Air Force Health. The robust nature of Nurse Practitioner

accreditation ensures that the Medical Officers, collaboratively working with an NP, can rely on competent, qualified and professional health care providers.

During the review of the NP service and correlating the skill sets of a civilian NP to those required by Air Force in a military health facility, a best fit relationship can currently be found in Emergency Nurse Practitioners (ENPs). An ENP brings specific skills and experience in the acute care setting including triage, acute injury and trauma, acute illness, health promotion, resuscitation and primary health care giving maximum capability for operational service.

Future: The subsequent assumption of NPs being recognised as a significant health resource in the Air Force would lead to their effective use during peacetime and combat/war like operations. Also reviewing and implementing other nurse practitioner skill sets such as primary health care, mental health, flight nursing will all in the future add further capability as the service requires. Utilising NPs in the nursing career structure could improve morale, retention and have benefits for Air Force and the greater Defence health community.

### **Ireland**



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Gerald Kearns RANP, Cardiology St. Vincent's  
University Hospital Group, Dublin.

### **Advanced Nursing Practice in Ireland - Preceptors of International Student ANP Experience**

Following the accreditation of the initial Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) working in an Emergency Department in 2002, many more ANPs in Ireland have established their practices over the past decade (NCNM 2010). Currently there are over 100 Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioners (RANPs) working across the 24 counties of Ireland in the following areas: acute adult care; psychiatric care; children's care; public health care; midwifery; and intellectual disability care.

There are four core concepts of guiding RANPs as they practice in Ireland. The concepts include the following: (1) **Autonomy in Clinical Practice:** An autonomous RANP is accountable and responsible for advanced levels of decision-making which occur through the management of specific patient/client caseload. RANPs conduct comprehensive health assessment and demonstrate expert skill in the clinical diagnosis and treatment of acute and/or chronic illness from within a collaboratively agreed scope of practice framework, in conjunction with other healthcare professionals; (2) **Expert Practice:** RANPs demonstrate practical and theoretical knowledge and critical thinking skills that are acknowledged by their peers as exemplary. They also demonstrate the ability to articulate and rationalise the concept of advanced practice. Education must be at master's degree level (or higher) in a programme relevant to the area of specialist practice and which encompasses a major clinical component; (3) **Professional and Clinical Leadership:** RANPs are pioneers and clinical leaders initiating and implementing changes in the healthcare service in response to patient/client need and service demand. They provide new and innovative services to many communities, in collaboration with other

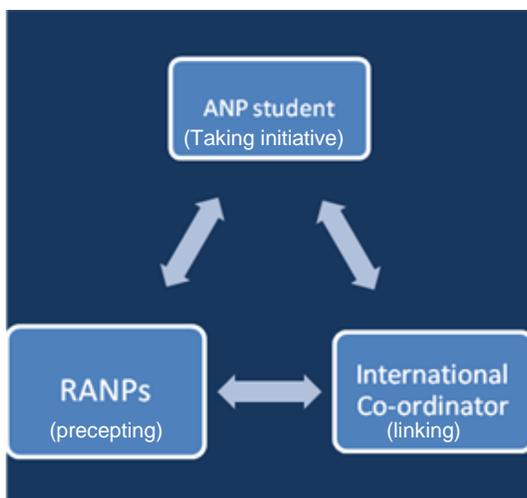
healthcare professionals, to meet a growing need that is identified both locally and nationally by healthcare management and governmental organisations; and (4) **Research:** RANPs are required to initiate and co-ordinate nursing/midwifery audit and research. They identify and integrate nursing/midwifery research in areas of healthcare that can incorporate best evidence-based practice to meet patient/client and service need. They carry out nursing/midwifery research which contributes to quality patient/client care, while advancing nursing/midwifery and health policy development, implementation and evaluation.

### **Preceptors of International Student ANP Experience**

Part of the RANP role is to facilitate the development of knowledge in the clinical area (NCNM 2008). Last year, RANP were part of an international preceptorship experience, which was set up for a German ANP student. The student '*shadowed*' Irish ANPs from two separate hospitals and from two specialties (Cardiology and Cardio-Thoracic Surgery) during a 3-week placement in Ireland. Both hospitals were contacted in advance and kindly supported the exchange.

The **aim** was to develop the student's knowledge on Irish ANPs' practices and routines. The student also gained knowledge on the development of ANP posts, and the challenges embedded in setting up such a post.

**Exchange cycle:** The exchange was *initiated* by the student. She made contact with the International Co-ordinator of the German networking group for ANPs (Deutsches Netzwerk Advanced Practice Nursing & Advanced Nursing Practice e.V.), who *linked* the student to the two Irish hospital settings. The ANPs agreed to be the *preceptors* for the student and developed a schedule of training. The three groups of advanced nurses worked together to enable this international preceptorship experience (see Diagram 1).



**Diagram 1: Exchange cycle**

**Experience:** Preparing a programme for the German ANP student provided the RANPs with an opportunity to review their own practice and highlight priorities of their practice in order to direct the student experience. The ANP candidate provided an external review of the RANPs practice, which in turn made the RANPs appreciate how far advanced nursing practice in Ireland has developed. In this project, RANPs engaged as preceptors in an international student ANP exchange experience. The experience allowed the RANPs with an opportunity to network with international colleagues and additional international exchanges are now anticipated.

For more information, please contact [Daniela.lehwaldt@dnapn.de](mailto:Daniela.lehwaldt@dnapn.de)

### References

National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery NCNM 2008. *Framework for the Establishment of Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Advanced Midwife Practitioner Posts*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Dublin: NCNM.

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

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3, place Jean-Marteau, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery NCNM 2010. *Profiles of Advanced Nurse / Midwife Practitioners and Clinical Nurse / Midwife Specialists in Ireland*. Dublin: NCNM.

### Upcoming ICN INP/APNN Conference



The 8th ICN INP/APNN conference will be hosted by the Finnish Nurses Association, 18-20 August in Helsinki, Finland. Welcome!

The Helsinki conference aims to highlight the role of advanced practice nurses in promoting health care access and achieving intended outcomes. The focus will be on the impact of APN roles on patient and health care outcomes, also on the society and global level. Questions related to patients' equality, advanced career possibilities, evidence based practices, and prerequisites for practice will be of interest.

See further details [www.nurses.fi](http://www.nurses.fi)

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### Announcements:

Would you like to communicate with NPs and APNs from around the world? Why not join the INP/APNN discussion forum, hosted by ICN. It's free, fun and interactive. Go to the following link, register and join a topic that interests you or create a new topic.

[www.icn.ch/forum/viewforum.php?f=47&sid=7d51a21fe5b9ca7220e1b23ff9279e4f](http://www.icn.ch/forum/viewforum.php?f=47&sid=7d51a21fe5b9ca7220e1b23ff9279e4f)