



INP/APN NETWORK BULLETIN

International Council of Nurses • Conseil international des infirmières • Consejo internacional de enfermeras

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1. DEFINITIONS

Characteristics For NP/APN Nursing Roles:

The nurse practitioner and advanced practice roles are emerging worldwide. To facilitate a common understanding ICN utilising the Network's expertise, has developed and adopted a definition and characteristics of advanced practice nursing. The full list of characteristics can be found on the ICN website www.icn.ch.

Definition of NP/APN:

A Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nurse is a registered nurse who has acquired the expert knowledge base, complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies for expanded practice, the characteristics of which are shaped by the context and/or country in which s/he is credentialed to practice. A master level degree is recommended for entry level.

2. WELCOME

By Madrean Schober
Chair and coordinator, INP/APNN

Welcome to the first issue of the news bulletin for the ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network (INP/APNN).

This ICN Network, which was launched in October 2000, aims to be an international resource for nurses practicing or interested in nurse practitioner (NP) or advanced practice nursing (APN) roles as well as policy makers, educators, regulators or health planners.

The INP/APN network is an evolving forum, which endeavours to be responsive to the needs and requests of the international

community. As with other ICN networks, we plan to identify key issues related to the field and track their development. In addition the network would like to monitor trends, disseminate information and organise related meetings and conferences. The network is an international vehicle for exchange of information and ideas.

3. 2nd ICN INP/APN CONFERENCE HELD IN AUSTRALIA

Making the Future: Practice, Policy and Partnerships, 31 October –2 November 2002

Conference Report
By Rosemary Goodyear and Barbara Sheer

The 2nd ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network conference was held October 31–November 2, 2002 in Adelaide, Australia.

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This conference, which focused on practice, policy and partnerships, attracted 400 participants from 23 countries. In the opening session Madrean Schober, Chair of INP/APNN, identified key issues affecting healthcare around the world including technological advances, increased complexity of health services and structural changes in the delivery and changing health care needs. She emphasised the potential contribution that nurses with advanced knowledge and skills can make in meeting these challenges; expanding health care options; and offering improved accessibility to services.

The Honorable Barry Jones, writer, broadcaster, and former political figure in Australia, presented a satirical account of the future of work. Some of the global challenges highlighted included climate change, resource use and waste disposal, human induced social environmental changes, intensification of agriculture, urbanisation, travel and co evolution of human and infectious agents.

The Royal College of Nursing Australia Acts as Conference Host
By Natalie Ashcroft

The Royal College of Nursing, Australia was pleased to host the ICN INP/APN conference. The role of the Nurse Practitioner is currently being developed in all Australian states and territories. RCN Australia felt that the conference succeeded in facilitating networking, discussion and sharing of ideas on national and international issues. The result of the networking will feed into policy development for the Nurse Practitioner as well as general health policy.

World changes in advanced practice nursing: practice, policy and regulation
By Barbara Sheer DNSc, FAANP
Co-Chair Communications Sub-group

During the conference in Adelaide key issues were identified which need to be addressed by countries in which NP/APN roles are developing and expanding. The following synopsis represents perspectives from participants in a keynote panel and from two concurrent sessions.

Canada: Although the role of the NP was introduced in 1960, it was not until 1990, when health care reform became a necessity, that the role of the NP generated significant interest. Currently 10 provinces and 3 territories have either introduced or are in the process of introducing the NP role.

Australia: Regulation of the NP role is currently at the State level. There are differences from state to state. Although the definition and the scope of practice differ, the role and title of the NP are recognised in all states except Queensland.

New Zealand: To address increased access to care, provide affordable care, and use the expertise of nurses to reduce the inequalities and benefit the public, the New Zealand Ministry of Health developed a strategy to incorporate the use of NPs at the policy level. The document describing this strategy is available on the New Zealand Ministry of Health Web site.

The Netherlands: Shortages of providers in the Netherlands caused closure of hospital units. Citizens were being sent to other countries just for surgery. Nursing responded to this situation with the development of a hospital-based NP programme. This programme was instituted with 16 students in 1998 and has grown to 273 as of 2002. The Netherlands has included prescriptive authority and reimbursement in the NP role.

Sweden: A pilot project has begun to discuss the expanded role of the nurse to include assessment, diagnosis and treatment of the elderly. Sweden will be hosting a conference for the Nordic countries to discuss this expanded role. A program for NPs in geriatric care is to begin in 2003.

Fiji: In 1999 an NP role was developed and prepared to practice in rural and remote communities.

Korea: Visionary programmes and role expansion are being developed in Korea, Thailand and Taiwan. Graduate

preparation is emphasising clinical knowledge, research and clinical decision-making.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR COUNTRY?

For inclusion in the next newsletter please send updates to the communication committee at sheer@udel.edu.

4. INP/APN NETWORK NEWS

STARTING OUT: NETWORK HISTORY **By Barbara Sheer** **Co-Chair Communications Sub-group**

In 1992, an invitation was extended to the first newly qualified NPs in the United Kingdom to attend an NP conference in Keystone, Colorado. In 1998 during an International NP conference hosted by the Royal College of Nursing Australia, a decision to discuss an international network with ICN was initiated. In 2000 the network was established during the 8th International Conference held in San Diego, California hosted by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Collaborative meetings have since been held in Dublin, Ireland in 2000, and Copenhagen, Denmark in 2001. The next ICN INP/APNN meeting will be in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2003. Through the network web site, news bulletin, conferences and additional communication, the network will: make pertinent information and news widely available; provide forums for sharing and exchange of expertise and experience; support nurses and countries in the process of introducing and developing NP/APN roles; and access international resources and links appropriate to the field.

WORKING TOGETHER: SPONSORSHIP AND FUND RAISING

By Sponsorship Subgroup with contribution from Mollie Burley

At the conference in Adelaide, Australia the network initiated its first sponsorship endeavour.

Working in collaboration with the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia (CRANA) the network collected funds to supply Clinical Skills Manuals for the remote nurses of Papua New Guinea. Janice Warure, the president of the Oro Branch of the Nurses Association of Papua New Guinea, told CRANA that the nurses association had purchased 20 CRANA Clinical Skills Manuals for 20 nursing centres in the province but that 80 more were needed for the more remote nursing posts. The network decided to facilitate this effort. The cost of additional manuals was covered by donations collected during the network conference. The Royal College of Nursing Australia covered shipping. The network will follow up on the impact these manuals have made on the population of Papua New Guinea.

5. 2004 IN GRONINGEN

You are invited to register for the 3rd ICN International Nurse Practitioner/ Advanced Practice Nursing Network conference "Critical Pathways in a Global Context" June 29th to July 2nd 2004 in Groningen, Netherlands. Access at <http://www.anp2004.nl>

The conference aims to further enhance and develop the role of the Nurse Practitioner and the Advanced Practice Nurse. This will be accomplished through critical debate on relevant issues, networking, small group discussions, and idea sharing on many national and international issues facing these nurses. The conference will include discussions on management and policy, professional practice, education, leadership and research, all of which directly impact these new and advancing roles. The NP role was introduced in the Netherlands near the end of 1997 and is now a significant part of the Dutch healthcare system.

The conference itinerary includes workshops in the countryside and participants are encouraged to access the website www.anp2004.nl for further information about the Netherlands.

5. NEWS FROM NURSE PRACTITIONER ORGANISATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

National Organisation of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, US By Anita Hunter

The National Organisation of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) represents over 1000 members. It provides and promotes quality nurse practitioner education at the national and international levels. Nurse Practitioner (NP) educators have been working together since the 1970s to establish standards for NP education and to promote the highest level of preparation of graduates from these programmes in the United States. Over the past decade, NONPF has sought to expand its reach in promoting the highest standards for global NP education.

NONPF developed educational products available globally as resources for advanced practice nurse educators. The products, delineation of core competencies for all nurse practitioner education, programme standards, preceptor guidelines, and curriculum development guides, are tools for developing and maintaining quality NP educational programmes. Other resources developed through national collaborations include competencies for primary care programmes and general programme guidelines. These resources have been available and used by countries such as England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland, and Canada.

The NONPF Educational Standards and Guidelines Committee is also a resource to aid faculty at the international level in interpreting and adapting the various educational products to fit their country specific needs. NONPF is committed to advancing nursing practice and advanced practice education. Further information is available at <http://www.nonpf.com>.

Royal College of Nursing UK: Nurse Practitioner Forum By Morag White

There are currently 2685 members registered with the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Nurse Practitioner Forum in the UK. This does not necessarily reflect the total number of NP/APNs in the UK as not all NPs are registered as RCN members. There is no central register of NPs, partly due to the lack of an agreed definition of the advanced practice role within the UK. In response to confusion about titles, roles, responsibilities and educational preparation, the United Kingdom Central Council issued a paper "Higher Level Practice" leading to a pilot setting standards and an independent panel evaluating each practitioner. This work is now being taken forward by its successor body the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

NPs are working in a variety of setting both in the acute (hospital) sector and in primary care along side General Practitioners. They are also working with the homeless, marginalised and socially disadvantaged groups. More recently, the increase in the numbers of "Drop In Centres" in the UK has encouraged further employment for NPs as well as the creation of Nurse Consultant posts.

Communications

Welcome to the first edition of the Bulletin. To enhance communications amongst all interested parties you are invited to share information and updates from your country. Send comments and feedback to dweiss@bestweb. or sheer@udel.edu.