Message from the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer – May 2016

Welcome to the monthly newsletter. This month we have both the International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day. I hope you find time to mark these days with some reflection but also some fun.

It is also a busy month with attendance at the WHO Global Government CNMO meeting; the TRIAD (national nursing associations; regulators and CNMOs) meeting followed by the World Health Assembly in Geneva in the latter half of the month.

Until next month,

Debra

International Day of the Midwife – 5 May 2016

The theme this year is “Women and Newborns: The Heart of Midwifery”. Midwives around the world work hard every day to ensure women and newborns receive the quality care that they deserve. The International Confederation of Midwives has developed a resource pack and poster to help with event functions. The Australian College of Midwives has various events planned with further information available here.

International Nurses Day – 12 May 2016

The theme this year is theme “Nurses: A force for change: Improving health systems’ resilience”. The International Council for Nurses has developed the International Nurses Day toolkit 2016 to support this year’s activities.

The Australian College of Nursing has published a factsheet highlighting the major themes covered in the IND toolkit produced by ICN for nurses and policy makers.

The ACN National Nurses Breakfast is hosted each year on 12 May in celebration of International Nurses Day. The campaign encourages nurses and their supporters to host a breakfast or get-together at their workplace, university or community centre to celebrate the invaluable contribution nurses make to the health of our society.

Influenza vaccine is now available

A quadrivalent formulation is available this flu season. Further information on new formulation is available here.

COAG Health Council

The federal, state and territory Health Ministers met in Perth on Friday, 8 April 2016 at the COAG Health Council to discuss a range of national health issues, including:

- Professional Indemnity Insurance for private practice midwives
- Long term reform strategy for the health system
- Digital Health update and signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Digital Health
- Advancing the clinical trials environment in Australia
- The National Maternity Services Plan
- Ante-natal health risk factors
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Hospital Medication Charts for public and private hospitals
- Opportunities for joint commissioning of health services by state and territory governments and Primary Healthcare Networks (PHNs)
- National Registration and Accreditation Scheme – issues arising from events at Djerriwarrh Health Services

The Communique from the meeting can be found here.

National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network

The inaugural meeting of the National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network (NNMEAN) was held in Canberra on 7 April 2016. The NNMEAN has been established to provide advice to Health Ministers on future workforce planning and education and training needs for the nursing and midwifery professions. The NNMEAN is comprised of a spread of respected leaders that represent the profession across all aspects of the health sector.

Members welcomed the establishment of this forum and acknowledged the current reform agenda provides an opportunity to embrace new models of care and build requisite skills across a number of areas particularly those areas with significant shortages and gaps, for example, mental health, aged care and chronic disease.

The first priority for the NNMEAN is to develop a work plan, for endorsement by Health Ministers, in which it will identify priority activities to be undertaken.

Medical Research Future Fund

The membership of the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board to advise Government on investing disbursements from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) has been announced. The MRFF represents investment in medical research that will complement the ongoing work of the National Health and Medical
Research Council and will provide a sustainable source of health and medical research funding for the medium to long term. Further information and board appointees are available here.

Digital Health Agency board established

The agency has been established to lead and provide direction in developing digital health and helping the health system benefit from digital innovation. Further information on board appointees is available here.

National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) changes

From 1 July 2016, the Government is introducing changes to the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) – an Australian Government-funded scheme that provides subsidised products for people with diabetes, along with self-management information and support services.

Under the new arrangements, people with diabetes will pick up their Government-subsidised diabetes-related products – such as needles, syringes, blood glucose test strips and urine test strips, and insulin pump consumables – at the pharmacy, and no longer via Diabetes Australia. There will be no change in the range of products available, or in the co-payment for people with diabetes. Further information about changes to the National Diabetes Services Scheme is available here.

Empowering children with diabetes

A new resource for schools to help their students with diabetes has been launched. Information on the resource is available here.

New anti-smoking campaign aims to Close the Gap

The latest phase of the National Tobacco Campaign to Close the Gap in smoking rates was recently launched. The Don’t Make Smokes Your Story features new advertising materials that focus on the values within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, such as the health and wellbeing of their families. Further information on the campaign is available here.

New cancer risk tool launched

Recently, a new interactive online tool Check Your Cancer Risk was launched. The tool is designed to help people understand how lifestyle factors contribute to their risk of cancer so they can take action. Check Your Cancer Risk was developed and based on Cancer Australia’s Position Statement Lifestyle Risk Factors and the Primary Prevention of Cancer, which provides a summary of the international evidence regarding modifiable lifestyle factors and cancer risk and concise recommendations on how to reduce risk, in one consolidated resource. The Check Your Cancer Risk tool, information and ‘how to’ advice is available on the Cancer Australia website.

Cancer Australia Framework to guide targeted efforts in gynaecological cancer control

Cancer Australia has released the National Framework for Gynaecological Cancer Control to reduce the impact of gynaecological cancer in Australia.

This year around 5,500 Australian women will be diagnosed with a gynaecological cancer. While the number of women surviving gynaecological cancer in Australia is rising, outcomes remain poor for some cancer types and population groups. For many women, treatment for gynaecological cancer may have physical and psychological effects for years after their diagnosis. For further information on framework.

New guidelines for organ transplantation released

The Australian Government has released new Ethical and Clinical Guidelines for organ transplantation. The Ethical and Clinical Guidelines, which supersede the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Organ Transplantation from Deceased Donors: Consensus Statement on Eligibility Criteria and Allocation Protocols, are the culmination of a collaborative effort by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Organ and Tissue Authority and TSANZ.

The guidelines provide an overarching framework for ethical and clinical practice to assist health professionals in assessing complex issues when making decisions regarding organ transplantation. Also provides information for potential organ transplant recipients and their families, carers and friends. They address the criteria and processes used to balance the needs of individuals with end-stage organ failure and the obligation of transplant teams to exercise responsible stewardship of the community’s healthcare resources, including donated organs. For further information on guidelines for organ transplantation.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

February Communiqué – The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia meets monthly and considers a range of matters, the most important of which are published in this Communiqué.

Annual Report 2014/15 released – The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the NMBA) has released its report for 2014/15. In 2014/15 the NMBA focused on the development of a number of registration standards and guidelines including five mandatory registration standards across both the nursing and midwifery professions. The NMBA also finalised its work on the enrolled nurse competency standards on 1 January 2016. The report for 2014-15 is available here.

Recent tribunal findings – are available on website.
Online renewal for nurses and midwives is now open

Online renewal is now open for nurses and midwives registered to practise in Australia. Renewal is due by 31 May 2016. Further information is available on NMBA website.

MBS Review Taskforce newsletter

The first committees will soon finalise their recommendations and release for public consultation. Further information is available from health website.

18th South Pacific Nurses Forum

The forum is on 31 October to 4 November at Honiara Solomon Islands. The theme is “Towards nursing excellence for universal (Pacific) health”. The forum will provide a regional platform for the dissemination of nursing knowledge and leadership across specialties, cultures and countries. Registration has opened with information available on website.

Publications


Mailbox

If you have any feedback or would like to contact the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, please email the central CNMO mailbox.