

18 February 2010

Orientation manual for Practice Nurses now available online

An Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) orientation manual for Practice Nurses new to general practice is now available online so rural nurses can also access the training.

Launched at the National Network Nursing in General Practice Forum 2010 the online program (Orientation Manual for Nurses New to General Practice) provides education on topics like legal issues, how Medicare and bulk billing work and highlights the key responsibilities of a Practice Nurse.

AGPN Chair, Dr Emil Djakic said the manuals were developed at the request of nurses.

"Practice Nurses told us the medical part of practice they knew well, but moving from ward nursing to general practice presented a whole new working environment and they needed a guide to understanding the day-to-day running of a practice," he said.

Nurses in rural and remote areas will benefit most from the online program. Previously they would need to attend training in urban areas, but now they can access it no matter where in the country they are he said.

The manual also aims to showcase to nurses the opportunities for career and skills development which practice nursing offers.

"Ongoing education and professional development is a vital part of practice nursing, but for it to be effective nurses need to know what tertiary education and scholarship opportunities are available to them, which is provided in the manual.

"Practice nursing was once seen as something you did when you had enough of hospitals, but now we are seeing graduates choosing to go into general practice, as they realise what a rewarding career it can be," said Dr Djakic

He was pleased to see this information being made available to Practice Nurses.

"Nursing in general practice is valid and it is vital, making sure our nurses have training opportunities to continue to develop their practice skills is something AGPN considers to be very important," said Dr Djakic.

For more information on the orientation manual please go to www.agpn.com.au.

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