ASHM Nursing Bulletin: May 2018

Welcome to the ASHM Nursing Program bulletin – keeping you up-to-date with happenings in the sector. Please feel free to contact me directly for any contributions or enquiries: Melinda Hassall, ASHM Clinical Nurse Lead: melinda.hassall@ashm.org.au / 0422 596 701

IN THIS EDITION | ASHM Acting CEO message | International Day of the Midwife | International Nurses Day | Organisational member profile | Online learning | Upcoming conferences

Visit the ASHM Nursing Program webpage

Please share and forward this communication within your networks

Become an ASHM member and access member benefits

ASHM is a member-based organisation supporting the HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health workforce. Nurses are valuable members of ASHM and are one of the most represented professions within ASHM’s membership.

Benefits for nurses:

- Opportunity to join a nurse network to advocate for education and participate in policy and advocacy discussions nationally and within your jurisdictions
- Access to ASHM scholarships for relevant national and international conference attendance
- Discounted registration fee to attend Australasian HIV & AIDS and Australasian Sexual Health conferences
- FIND OUT MORE and JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP

Did you know?

ASHM membership is available to everyone working in the HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health sector

Click here for more information

International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day

How are you and your colleagues celebrating?
Send a photo of your activities to nursing@ashm.org.au to include in the next Nursing newsletter.

A message from Scott McGill, ASHM’s Acting CEO in support of Midwives and Nurses for International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day.

It is not widely known that when ASHM started in 1989 it was as the Australian Society for AIDS Physicians -- and even less appreciated that since those early days it is nurses and midwives and not in fact medical doctors who make up the largest proportion of ASHM members.

ASHM is committed to supporting this critical part of the BBV and STI workforce in Australia, New Zealand and in our region through ensuring that nurses and midwives are included in:

- workforce development opportunities
- policy support (position statements and submission supporting HIV/HBV/HCV nurse practitioner prescribing)
- resources (clinical practice guidelines in BBV and STIs)
- collaborations with peer nursing bodies across the health sector
- conference scholarship programs as well as ensuring the opportunity to network and present at national and international conferences

The nurses and midwives we work with and support are highly valued and we regularly canvas you as a group to ensure that we are tailoring our programs and efforts to the needs of the workforce. You are supported by an impressive group of clinical nurse advisors, our own Clinical Nurse Lead in ASHM, and two nurse representatives on our Board. We are always happy to hear from you and let us know if we can be of any assistance in your work.

5th May - International Day of the Midwife

The International Confederation of Midwives theme for 2018 is Midwives leading the way with quality care.

ASHM acknowledges the vital role that Midwives have in the care, management and prevention of HIV, viral hepatitis and STI’s for women and their newborns.
ASHM’s Antenatal testing and blood-borne viruses (BBVs) resource provides advice about recommended antenatal testing for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C and management of these BBVs during pregnancy and delivery.

12th May – International Nurses Day

The International Council of Nurses 2018 theme is Nurses: A voice to lead, health is a human right. Every individual has the right to highest standard of healthcare available and nurses are essential in ensuring that health care and health systems are accessible for all.

The Australian College of Nursing host a National Nurses breakfast and encourage nurses to host and share breakfast with their colleagues.

Register here for more information about the National Nurses breakfast.

A message from Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian College of Nursing
Nurses play a pivotal role in providing treatment, care and management of people with BBVs and STIs.

One of the main challenges for sexual health care professionals is to address the emotional and social barriers that discourage people from undergoing testing and treatment for STIs and BBVs, particularly among young people. By creating a supportive and non-judgemental environment, nurses are able to address the underlying issues involved, including the social and psychological impacts of screening or a positive diagnosis.

A substantial part of your work involves providing evidence-based education to ensure that clients have the information they need to evaluate results, and to make informed choices to manage their own health and wellbeing.

The introduction of nurse-led clinics has been successful in screening and treating STIs and BBVs throughout Australia, including regional and remote areas. Nurses have fostered a collaborative approach with other health services, including mental health, corrections and drug and alcohol services, to provide appropriate education programs to reduce the risk of undiagnosed STIs and BBVs.

The increase in public awareness through sexual health programs and nurse-led clinics has empowered nurses to actively promote positive norms and address perceived stigma surrounding STI and BBV testing and treatment.

I would like to acknowledge each of you for your contribution to communities all over Australia and for your leadership in this area. The opportunities for nurses to expand our roles, particularly in primary health, are exciting and I look forward to being informed of your progress.

Happy International Nurses Day.

We are powerful individually - together we’re unstoppable.

---

**ASHM Nurse organisational member profile**  
**Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (DANA)**

The Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (DANA) are organisational sustaining members of ASHM. DANA is the peak nursing organisation providing leadership to nurses and midwives with a professional interest in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) issues in Australasia.

President Darren Smyth (pictured) leads DANA members in key collaborative work with ASHM, including representation on education and conference committees, development of course materials and resources. The DANA conference provides a great professional development opportunity for nurses.
The Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (DANA 2018) ‘It Starts with Us’ Conference

Mark your diary as ‘busy’ between 26th and 27th July; the official dates for the DANA 2018 Australasian ‘It Starts with Us’ Conference.

Melbourne is the destination city for this year’s event. The host venue is Building 16, Storey Hall, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) situated in the heart of the CBD.

With three powerful international keynote speakers and an impressive line up of more than twenty-five presenters (and that doesn’t include the presenters for the ‘abstract’ sessions) you won’t be disappointed.

This is a conference for nurses, by nurses, about nursing. So why not join us? You will:

- enjoy a fantastic networking opportunity;
- be able to listen to, and engage in, discussion about contemporary local and global drug and alcohol related issues;
- have fun;
- come away inspired and upskilled.

Hard to resist really, so take advantage of the early bird rate, and an even better rate if you are a DANA member and register now. We would hate you to miss out.

Visit the DANA 2018 Conference website for more information or to register.
#DANAconf2018

---

**ASHM Nurse Member notice board**

Please email nursing@ashm.org.au if you have any of the following that you would like to share with your fellow ASHM nurse members in the next Nursing Program Bulletin.
A relevant new resource
- National or international conference or workshop report back
- Journal article that you have authored/co-authored in the last 5 years

Opportunities for CPD hours: ASHM online learning for Nurses
Visit ASHM’s online Learning Management System (LMS) to view the currently available Hepatitis B and Sexual Health webinars. New users of the LMS will have to register first to be able to access training. ACCESS THE LMS

Upcoming conferences
ASHM-Managed Conferences
11th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference
13-15 August | Adelaide | Visit the website
Australasian HIV&AIDS Conference
24-26 September 2018 | Sydney | Visit the website

Sector Conferences
Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association
National Conference | 10-12 May | Brisbane | Visit the website

Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia
DANA 2018 Australasian Conference | 26-27 July | Melbourne | Visit the website

Australian College of Nursing
National Nursing Forum 2018 | 28-30 August | Gold Coast | Visit the website

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
10-13 September | Canberra | Visit the website

Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives
Professional Development Conference | 17-19 September | Adelaide | Visit the website

CRANAPlus
36th Conference | 20-22 September | Cairns | Visit the website

Australian College of Midwives
‘Coming of Age’ 21st National Conference | 16-18 October | Perth | Visit the website

Stay connected
Visit the ASHM website to access the latest information about training, resources, conferences and other HIV, viral hepatitis and STI news. Please email nursing@ashm.org.au if you would like to provide feedback on the ASHM Nursing Program or share your thoughts on training and resource gaps in your area of interest and location.
CIRCULATION INFORMATION

ASHM is a peak professional society representing a multidisciplinary health workforce in HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health. We have a membership of over 1500 and approximately 50 organisational members providing reach to a large majority of health care worker activity involved in the sector.

You are receiving this email because you are an ASHM member or an affiliate through the organisational member program who has indicated an interest in ASHM Nursing Program. This is our principal way to keep you informed about matters in which you indicate an interest. This email was sent to a targeted group of 4512.

You can change the kinds of email alerts you receive at any time by logging in to my.ashm.org.au and re-selecting your interest preferences. Alternatively, change your general subscription here.