

CoNNO Meeting – Friday 28 September 2012

Draft minutes

1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the meeting by Kim Ryan, Chair of the Coalition of National Nursing Organisations (CoNNO).

2. Attendance

Durelle Osborne	Audiomerty Nurses Association of Australia
Marija Juraja	Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control & CoNNO Councillor
Deborah D'arcy	Australasian Hepatology Association
Jo Perks	Australasian Sexual Health & HIV Nurses Association
Sharryn Byers	Australasian Neuroscience Nurses Association
Julian Grant	Australian Association of Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses
Lesley Everingham	Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses
Marion Mitchell	Australian College of Critical Care Nurses
June Colgrave	Australian College of Children & Young People's Nurses
Kim Ryan	Australian College of Mental Health Nurses & CoNNO Chair
Shelley Reid	Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Inc
Stuart Smith	Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
Rob McCann	Australian College of Operating Room Nurses
Nuala Harkin	Australian Diabetes Educators Association
Donna Cowan	Australian New Zealand Urological Nurses Society
Lisa Gatzonis	Australian Nurse Teachers Society
Leigh Pretty	Australian Nurses for Continence
Virginia Ip	Australian Nurses for Continence
Julianne Bryce	Australian Nursing Federation & CoNNO Secretariat
Amanda Wylie	Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association
Julianne Badenoch	Australian Practice Nurses Association & CoNNO Councillor
Linda Oliver	Australian Women's Health Nurse Association & CoNNO Councillor
Theresa Swanson	Australian Wound Management Association
Kylie Stark	College of Emergency Nursing Australasia
Robyn Coulthard	Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses & CoNNO Councillor
Geri Malone	CRANaplus
Kate McCauley	Department of Health and Ageing
Colleen Blums	Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia
Margaret Tabone	Flight Nurses of Australia
Lynn Rapley	Gastroenterology Nurses College of Australia
Nicholas Lord	Health Workforce Australia
Tom Buckley	Health Workforce Australia
Beth Amega	Renal Society of Australasia
Adam McRae	NPS MedicineWise
Julia Turnell	NPS MedicineWise
Sussan Pearce	NSW Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
Brett Holmes	NSW Nurses and Midwives Association
Kate Adams	NSW Nurses and Midwives Association
Thomas Harding	NSW Nurses and Midwives Association
Jo Foster	Nursing Informatics Australia
Lis Herbert	Nursing Informatics Australia
Tracey Nicholls	Otorhinolaryngology Head & Neck Nurses Group Australia
Cathie Pigott	Palliative Care Australia
Regina McDonald	Psychogeriatric Nurses Association, Australia

Representing the national interests of nurses in all sectors of the health profession

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2.1 Apologies

Jacqui Burton	Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses
Helen Gosby	Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
Debra Thoms	Australian College of Nursing
Jenny Keller	Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association
Suzie Hooper	Australasian Rehabilitation Nurses Association
Dianne Crellin	College of Emergency Nursing Australasia
Eithne Irving	Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery
Christopher Cliffe	CRANApus
Maryanne Craker	National Enrolled Nurses Association

3. Confirmation of agenda

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 1 May 2012

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 May 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Business arising from the previous meeting

Action items from the previous meeting have been addressed.

6. Department of Health and Ageing report

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) report was provided by Kate McCauley, Assistant Secretary, Health Workforce Policy Branch, Health Workforce Division at the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Kate gave an overview of the role of the Branch in providing policy advice to the Australian Government and managing health workforce programs. The Productivity Commission Report released at the beginning of 2006 examined the issues impacting on health workforce. This report set the directions for health workforce reforms and resulted in the establishment of Health Workforce Australia, as the national planning and policy body, and the introduction of the National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme. Draft Terms of Reference are currently being approved for a further Productivity Commission Inquiry into health workforce. This inquiry will commence in November 2012 and will take 15 months. It will have significant scope and there will be extensive stakeholder consultations. Opportunity will be provided for submissions. The inquiry will look at the findings of the HW2025 Report and focus on productivity gains in workforce redesign, geographical distribution of workforce, workforce attraction and retention, self-sufficiency, cost and efficiency of clinical training. This will be a major review of health workforce and DoHA is keen for the nursing and midwifery professions to feed in to the process.

DoHA is commencing a review of health workforce programs. Jennifer Mason, former Director General of the Department of Human Services, Department of Community Services and Department of Juvenile Justice in NSW, has been appointed as Independent Chair for this internal department review. Jennifer will be supported by an internal advisory group from Aged Care, Primary Care, Community Care and mental Health Divisions. Current Australian Government funding for health workforce programs is \$1.2 billion per year. The review will be looking at approximately 30 programs which are funded and managed across the Health Workforce Division. There will be opportunities for stakeholder engagement through meetings and roundtable discussions. The focus of this review will be on positive outcomes of current workforce measures, identified issues and possible improvements. The draft report from this review will be provided to the Federal Health Minister by the end of the year. The final report will go to the Australian Government by March 2013. Kate agreed to provide a listing of the full range of health workforce programs that will form part of the review.

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7. NPS MedicineWise

Adam McRae, NPS Program Implementation Manager for Health Professional Services and Julia Turnell, NPS Nurse Engagement Program Officer, presented on the role of NPS MedicineWise. NPS was established in 1998 and is fully funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. NPS provides useful tools and information about medicines, conditions and medical tests to help Australians make better health choices. An overview was provided of the resources that have been developed for health professionals, and in particular, nurses and midwives. The NPS provides information and tools, such as: publications including the Australian Prescriber, NPS RADAR, NPS News and Nurse Update; one-on-one and small group education in partnership with health professionals; online learning programs; clinical e-audits; prescribing and pharmacy practice reviews; decision support tools in prescribing software; and consumer resources and tools. Nurse engagement work started 12 months ago to better engage nurses in quality use of medicines. Julia, a registered nurse and pharmacist, is based in Melbourne and has the broad remit of enhancing nurse engagement with NPS. NPS are considering nursing and the role of nurses in all their activities. They are looking to partner with State and Territory based organisations to progress quality use of medicines work in the acute care sector.

NPS has developed the *Prescribing Competencies Framework* to describe the competencies that health professionals require to prescribe medicines judiciously, appropriately safely and effectively in the Australian healthcare system. A Nursing Insight Group is being established to provide high-level guidance and advice to enhance the support NPS offers to the nursing and midwifery professions. They are currently inviting applications from nurses, nurse practitioners and midwives with an interest in improving utilisation and knowledge about medicines to join this group. The group will be chaired by Elizabeth Foley, Australian Nursing Federation, Federal Professional Officer and supported by Julia Turnell from NPS. The Nursing Insight Group will be meeting 2–3 times a year in Sydney. Members will be provided with travel costs and sitting fees. NPS is keen for CoNNO members to apply to be part of this group. Applications close Friday 5 October 2012. For more information please go to the NPS website at <http://www.nps.org.au/>.

The NPS presentation is available on the CoNNO website.

8. Health Workforce Australia – Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway Project

Health Workforce Australia (HWA) Project Manager, Nick Lord and Project Clinical Lead, Tom Buckley presented on the Health Professional Prescribing Pathway (HPPP) project. The project aims to develop a nationally consistent approach to prescribing by health professionals, other than medical practitioners, that supports safe practice, quality use of medicines and effectiveness of healthcare services. Following Nick's presentation, a 2 hour workshop was conducted with CoNNO members to gain input on the second phase of the HPPP project. Following the workshop, CoNNO members were encouraged to provide any further feedback to the CoNNO Secretariat, attention to Nick Lord at HWA.

9. National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Plan report

Robyn Coulthard represents the Congress of Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN) on CoNNO and is a member of CoNNO Council. Robyn was selected by Council to represent CoNNO on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (NATSIHP) Stakeholder Reference Group (SAG). An update was provided of the work of the SAG to date and an overview given of the NATSIHP Discussion Paper. The Department of Health and Ageing is currently seeking feedback on this draft paper. The paper has been circulated to CoNNO members by the Secretariat. There was broad discussion about the document, its purpose and impact. Comments were provided about the importance of resourcing for both the effective implementation of the plan and education of the existing health workforce. Members were requested to provide any further feedback to the CoNNO Secretariat, attention to Robyn Coulthard.

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10. Council reports

Chair report

Kim Ryan provided an update for members on her representative roles on behalf of CoNNO with the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) and the Health Workforce Australia (HWA) Governance Committee for the HW2025 Report. Kim reminded members about the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Congress to be held in Melbourne from 18 - 23 May 2013.

Secretariat report

See tabled Secretariat report.

11. Member reports

See tabled Member reports.

12. Other business

Copies of the Australasian Hepatology Association's *AHA Consensus-based nursing guidelines for the care of patients with Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Advanced Liver Disease and Hepatocellular Carcinoma* – September 2012 were provided for CoNNO members by Deborah D'Arcy, AHA President.

Issue of Medical Practice Assistants and Physician Assistants was raised for discussion. CoNNO Council will develop draft CoNNO Position Statements on these roles for consideration by CoNNO members.

13. Next meeting

Friday 17 May 2013, 9.30am to 4pm, Australian Nursing Federation Victorian Branch, 540 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne – To Be Confirmed.