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Issue 1, December 2007

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Welcome to the Office of the Chief Nurse first bulletin. This bulletin will be produced quarterly and will be published on www.health.qld.gov.au/ocno & www.thinknursing.com.au

We are giving you the opportunity to name the bulletin. Please email your suggestion by 1st February 2008 to

chiefnurse-office@health.qld.gov.au

EPIC

Evidence · Practice · Innovation · Capacity

thinknursing

This bulletin is collated and distributed by the Office of the Chief Nurse.



Queensland
Government
Queensland Health

From the Chief Nurse's desk

Welcome to the first issue of the Office of the Chief Nurse (OCNO) bulletin. This bulletin will provide a communication platform to inform and update the progress of strategic direction for nurses and midwives in Queensland. It will also showcase local innovation, promote educational and professional development opportunities and will communicate key bodies of work that are occurring in the organisation that have relevance to nurses and midwives.

The Office of the Chief Nurse has two main roles:

- To provide advice to the Director General and Minister
- To develop and implement policy and strategy shaping the future nursing and midwifery workforce in Queensland.

Nurses and midwives have as their central motivation, high quality patient/client care and to achieve this, the profession must focus on their profession and practice development. As policies and strategies are developed to meet the goal of a competent, well informed workforce in Queensland, the Office of the Chief Nurse is using the EPIC acronym to describe the core components of strengthening and developing the practice domains.

EVIDENCE research provides the evidence-based foundations for policy direction that will enable change in nursing practice.

PRACTICE & DEVELOPMENT Nursing practice in Queensland is governed by competency standards established by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council and a scope of practice developed by the Queensland Nursing Council. Incorporating contemporary best practice into future nursing and midwifery practise directions is a continual process driven by all nurses and midwives and directed by nurse leaders.

INNOVATION is absolutely essential for the growth and development of the profession. Sustainable changes need sponsorship of strong nurse leaders. The Office of the Chief Nurse is committed in supporting the development of influential nurse leaders and 2008 will see the implementation of a formal mentorship program.

CAPACITY is not just about the workforce and increasing the 'pipeline' of nurses entering the workforce, but it is also about making the most of technology, about building a skilled and flexible workforce and enabling contemporary models of care to become a reality. These elements will shape a nursing and midwifery workforce ready to embrace the challenges of nursing in the 21st Century.

The Office of the Chief Nurse is preparing to work with Nurse and Midwife Leaders nationally and internationally on an EPIC journey that will make a positive contribution to nursing care in Queensland communities.

Regards *Pauline Ross*