



National University Rural Health Conference - NURHC 2009

Health Discipline / Stakeholder Networking Lunch

Nursing

1:30pm, Saturday 25th July 2009

Chair: Sally Grainger (StARRH)

Minutes: Katherine Radosevich (SPINRPHEX)

Attachments: Student items we can CONTROL / INFLUENCE / CONCERNS

Attendance & RHC's:

Leah Hannan (MIRAGE)

Nicole Low (SHARP)

Talia Marles (FURHS)

Celandine Clappis (FURHS)

Amanda Francis (SHARP)

Agatha Williams (SHARP)

Therese Humphries (StARRH)

Erika Bright (SHARP)

Stephanie Jeremy (CRANC)

Jessica Lew (CRANC)

Jerry Moore (KRASH)

Tara Zanker (ROUSTAH)

Mitchell Wilson (ROUNDS)

Laurel Nossar (ROUNDS)

Tim Snell (NERCHA)

Kerry Rologas (NERCHA)

Emily Dalton (NOMAD)

Becky-Lee Young (NERCHA)

Linda Sipple (NERCHA)

Charis Patterson (KRASH)

Anna Huigen (CARAH)

Rebecca Russ (CARAH)

Thomas Quinn (CARAH)

Kellyanne Coyle (CARAH)

Elise Kerr (KRASH)

Ian Vickers (StARRH)

Melissa Collins (StARRH)

Kim Izod (StARRH)

Miranda Cunan (KRASH)

Katina Coffin (KRASH)

Morika West (KRASH)

Owen Smith (BREEATHHE)

Grace McCormack (KRASH)

Katherine Radosevich (SPINRPHEX)

Sally Grainger (StARRH)

Tahlia Heath (National Rural Health Alliance)

Erin Woodman (Prostate Foundation of Australia)

Jan Anderson (Country Women's Association, Australia)

Anne-Marie Bouchers (CRANAplus)

The aim of the Nursing Lunch was to provide an opportunity for greater understanding and networking between the students and stakeholders with similar professional interest(s).

Sally Grainger (NRHSN Senior Nursing Portfolio Advisor) and Katherine Radosevich (NRHSN Junior Nursing Portfolio Advisor) introduced themselves and welcomed the 35 Nursing students, from 13 NRHSN rural health clubs across Australia, to the lunch.



A number of stakeholders were then invited to speak about and give an overview of their organisation. The first stakeholder to be introduced was Tahlia Heath, from the NRHA. Next was Erin Woodman from the Prostate Foundation of Australia, who spoke about post-graduate scholarships and opportunities available for Nursing students. Jan Anderson from the Country Women's Association (Australia) spoke about scholarship opportunities available for Nursing students, and explained the fundraising behind these scholarships. The final stakeholder was Anne-Marie Bouchers from CRANAplus, who also spoke about scholarships available for Nursing students.

During the remainder of the hour, the Nursing students engaged in a passionate discussion and worked together, to generate a list of the greatest concerns and issues of nursing students. This culminated in an action plan for the issues and concerns in which students have some control over, as opposed to those they could merely influence but not directly control. The NRHSN requested that students narrow these down to two issues that were realistic, achievable and of importance to nursing students', however the attendees identified three areas of concern:

1. Requirement for a National Student Nursing Website/Body. It was felt that this should sit under the umbrella of a national group such as the NRHSN, Nurses Federation or RCNA (Influence)
2. Nursing Funding in the form of both scholarships and other types of financial assistance (Influence)
3. Guidelines for rural and remote student placements for use by University Placement Coordinators. Once created, the guidelines would be sent by the NRHSN to all Universities with Rural Health Clubs in the NRHSN network (Control)

I would like to thank all attendees for their enthusiasm, patience and passion at the meeting. All participants had valuable input and although time was limited I feel that we achieved a great deal in the time allocated.

The next step is to create three working parties to kick off guidelines/a "to do" list for the three areas identified above. If you are keen to help (and you are because you're studying nursing) then please identify the area you would like to assist with and email nursing@nrhsn.org.au with your details and the subject line of one or more of the following - nominating which party you want to work on:

1. National Student Nursing Website/Body
2. Nursing Funding
3. Placement Guidelines

By everyone putting in a small amount of time and effort big things can be achieved without undue strain to any one person.



ATTACHMENTS:

NOTE: The following points were identified by nursing students during the NURHC '09 Nursing Networking Lunch. Students selected their own areas (Control, Influence, Concern) they believed their comment came under and all points made are direct quotations from the nursing students present.

CONTROL

- Scholarships. Lack of requirements or research to show where more scholarships are needed
- Vital to be a national body – politically and financially
- Uni content:
 - remote / rural / Indigenous,
 - Med focus re: scholarships,
 - lack of placement options
- No rural focus in degree. Rural health and placements unknown unless you are in a rural health club
- Control over placements. I want remote placements
- Universities not being receptive to students wanting remote placement
- National body
- Pool our rural placement contacts and open up those placements to students nation wide
- Being able to organise own remote placements and being supported by Uni
- Partnering with community clubs e.g. Rotary to assist with accommodation for clinical placements
- Pharmacy students get reimbursed by the government for their rural/remote placements. Nursing students should get similar justice
- Our University not allowing us to gain extensions for online assignments if we go on prac in a rural area with no internet connections
- Financial issues whilst on placement – accommodation, food, fuel?
- How to go on a remote placement with Uni support and help
- Finding work post-grad if you live where no grad program available (nurse shortage is about shortage of experienced nurses)



INFLUENCE

- National registration
- The ability to manage money, debt, work, children, inability to work due to study load, stress and these [stressors] detract from my learning
- Just being on clinical practical gets me behind on my financial state
- More involvement with:
 - Aboriginal Health Workers
 - SIKS: School of Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- 10 weeks of prac each year – would like some money during that to help with costs. I usually work every week, so [prac] leaves me behind financially
- Government paying students an apprenticeship wage when going on placement
- Scholarships that are not means tested and not just for rural/remote placements e.g. for books, fees etc.
- Accommodation on prac
- Funding on prac
- More funding for placements
- Money for placements to assist with food, accommodation, transport
- Financial support for placements – food, travel, accommodation
- Help with child care fees
- Travel paid for upfront when going to prac
- Enable international students to keep studying and not drop out, thereby increasing total number of nurses
- Cost of text books
- No national body (i.e. a nursing student national body is required)
- No rural placements (i.e. rural placements are required)
- No interest from any NGO's or government in increasing student funding
- Increase rural/remote hospitals ability to accommodate students from Australia wide & increased financial aid
(FACT: of the Adelaide students to complete a prac at Alice Springs, 100% returned to complete their new grad year)

INFLUENCE (Continued)

- Relationship within placement in the community
- Needs to be more content in course both multicultural and Indigenous
- Lack of funding to go to rural/remote locations
- Placement in course. I'm 3rd year and [my] first time in a hospital was [the] beginning of this year. Experience hospital setting in 1st year, even for 2 weeks



CONCERNS

- National registration
- National standard structure for University courses
- Reduce or nil University fees for Nursing/Medicine students due to shortage and the incurred costs along the way to do rural/remote placements, textbooks etc. etc.
- National nursing courses so you can do semesters in other areas [locations]
- Contact with other Uni's re: rural placement contacts
- No University support for remote placements
- Single national body to represent us
- Be able to go on prac in other Australian states/territories
- Not enough cultural learning. All cultures
- Easy rural and remote placements and graduate nursing positions (GNP's)
- National body
- Fair pay for local nurses being employed in aged care rather than short term agency nurses being flown in (can't pay the locals, they don't pay them fairly)
- Not enough cultural learning – not just Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander peoples, but other cultures in our multicultural country