This special edition of the Nursing & Midwifery news focuses on the 2017 South Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards that were held on Friday, 12 May at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. Nurses and midwives were recognised for their excellence in practice and were acknowledged for the significant contribution that they make to their professions, their teams and the community through their practice.

The nurses and midwives selected as Excellence Awards finalists demonstrate leadership in the areas of clinical practice, research and education, across the many varied and diverse settings in which they practice. These nurses and midwives have a desire to go above and beyond, they challenge themselves to surpass their own expectations, they take pride in what they do and set themselves higher goals and achieve them. All the nurses and midwives that were nominated for this year’s Excellence Awards were celebrated at the dinner, for their leadership, passion and commitment in delivering high quality, person centred and compassionate care.

It was a truly wonderful night enjoyed by nurses and midwives, families and friends, colleagues and sponsors. We were very fortunate to have the Minister for Health, the Hon Jack Snelling MP: Mrs Annabel Digance MP, Member for Elder: Ms Natalie Cook MP, Member for Fisher: Mrs Janine Mohamed, Chief Executive Officer, Congress of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Nurses & Midwives and Ms Ann Kinnear, CEO, Australian College of Midwives in attendance for this special evening.

The last 12 months has seen a significant amount of change in South Australia especially as we transform our health system and are about to move into the new Royal Adelaide Hospital which is the most significant change to health care in this state in over a decade. In this complex health care environment when our health system is undergoing massive transformation, leading and advocating has never been more challenging or, indeed important. Nurses and midwives are adept at dealing with change and ‘getting on with it’, because we are on the front line, and, more than anybody else we see what is being done on a daily basis and how it can be done better. Therefore nurses and midwives need to be at the front leading and driving change as active participants. We know that in order to affect change we need to be at the table influencing and having a voice, so that we can be the agents of change, the drivers of innovation and the shapers of health care policy.

The Excellence Awards also commemorated the life of Mary Buckskin, Aboriginal Leader, with the launching of the Mary Buckskin Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Award for Excellence in Practice Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife. Mary was a nurse, Aboriginal hospital liaison officer, clinical educator and policy adviser. She was renowned for her leadership, wealth of knowledge and pro-active approach in mentoring the new generation of young upcoming Aboriginal leaders.

The Awards are held during the week of celebration for International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day, 5–12 May 2017.

International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day provides an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the pivotal roles of nurses and midwives in the provision of health care. Both the themes for this year look to the future and the vital role of nurses and midwives in shaping it.

This year, the theme for International Day of the Midwife is “Midwives, Mothers and Families: Partners for Life!” Midwives everywhere understand that by working in partnership with women and their families they can support them to make better decisions about what they need to have a safe and fulfilling birth. We know that a healthy pregnancy, birth and start to life lead to improved health across the lifespan. As midwives are the specialist clinicians in facilitating a healthy pregnancy, normal birth and a smooth transition to early parenting, the important role that midwives play in the future health of South Australians cannot be overstated.

The focus for 2017’s International Nurses Day is: Nurses a Voice to Lead – Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As our largest group of health professionals, the nursing profession does indeed have an important voice, a voice that is leading and influencing change to improve health care outcomes and the health of the community at a service, state, national and international level.
Congratulations to the recipients and finalists of the 2017 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

**AWARD RECIPIENTS**

- **Excellence in Practice - Registered Nurse**  
  Georgina Paterson  
  Central Adelaide Local Health Network

- **Excellence in Practice – Enrolled Nurse**  
  James Carroll  
  Central Adelaide Local Health Network

- **Excellence in Practice - Registered Midwife**  
  Michelle Marsh  
  Northern Adelaide Local Health Network

- **Mary Buckskin Award for Excellence in Practice - Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife**  
  Sponsored by SA Health, CATSINaM and Calvary Wakefield Hospital  
  Jessica McKenzie  
  Women’s and Children’s Health Network

- **Excellence in Leadership (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)**  
  Viv London  
  Country Health SA Local Health Network

- **Excellence in Innovation in Education (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)**  
  Trudi Verrall  
  Women’s and Children’s Health Network

- **Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Research (Registered Nurse/Midwife)**  
  Alison Hutton  
  School of Nursing and Midwifery, Flinders University

- **Excellence in Person Centred Care – Team Award (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife/Enrolled Nurse)**  
  Country Health SA Local Health Network BloodMove
Nursing and Midwifery EXCELLENCE AWARDS RECIPIENTS 2017

Georgina Paterson
Excellence in Practice - Registered Nurse

James Carroll
Excellence in Practice – Enrolled Nurse

Michelle Marsh
Excellence in Practice – Registered Midwife

Jessica McKenzie
Mary Buckskin Excellence in Practice - Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife

Alison Hutton
Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Research (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)

Trudi Verrall
Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Education (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)

Georgina Paterson
Excellence in Practice - Registered Nurse

Viv London
Excellence in Leadership (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)

Michelle Marsh
Excellence in Practice – Registered Midwife

Alison Hutton
Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Research (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)

CHSALHN BloodMove
Excellence in Person Centred Care – Team Award (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife/Enrolled Nurse)
2017 Nursing and Midwifery EXCELLENCE AWARDS FINALISTS

AWARD FINALISTS

Excellence in Practice - Registered Nurse
Georgina Paterson
Susan Saies
Dana Wright

Excellence in Practice – Enrolled Nurse
James Carroll
Julie Hall
Lisa McCall

Excellence in Practice - Registered Midwife
Michelle Marsh
Lisa Redden
Jenny Willing

Mary Buckskin Award for Excellence in Practice - Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife
Jessica McKenzie

Excellence in Leadership (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)
Viv London
Marion Eckert
Sophie Winnicki

Excellence in Innovation in Education (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)
Trudi Verrall
Karen Barwick
Sally Broers

Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Research (Registered Nurse/Midwife)
Alison Hutton
SAPS Clinical Research Team

Excellence in Person Centred Care – Team Award (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife/Enrolled Nurse)
Country Health SA Local Health Network BloodMove
Breast Care Nursing Team – St Andrew’s Hospital
PACE Team – Northern Adelaide Local Health Network
The PREMIER’S Nursing and Midwifery SCHOLARSHIPS 2017/2018

The Minister for Health the Hon Jack Snelling MP, was proud to present the 2017/2018 recipients of the SA Premier’s Nursing and Midwifery Scholarships on behalf of the Premier of South Australia the Hon Jay Weatherill MP. The aim of the scholarships is to provide South Australian Nurses and Midwives with an opportunity to further develop their knowledge, skills and abilities in innovative, evidenced based nursing and midwifery practice which leads to positive health outcomes for all South Australians. Four international scholarships to the value of $12,000 were awarded.

JORJA TERRELL
Jorja is a Child and Adolescent Forensic Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Candidate with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Women’s and Children’s Health Network.

Jorja’s Study Tour is titled - Observing best practice of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Nurse Practitioner led care in Youth Justice in Canada.

Jorja will visit numerous youth justice services including custodial settings, community services and specialised forensic inpatient facilities to learn about best Nurse Practitioner practice when delivering Mental Health care to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal clients within the youth justice system.

VICKI MOSS
Vicki is a Sarcoma Nurse Practitioner and Orthopaedic Clinic Coordinator in Southern Adelaide Local Health Network who has recently enrolled in the Nurse Practitioner Program - Clinical Practice Support stream.

Vicki intends to visit centres of excellence in orthopaedics in the United Kingdom. The study tour will enable her to gather information, knowledge and principles on current treatment practices, management and support services available for people with bone tumours and sarcomas.

Vicki’s role is integral to the ongoing development of the current multi-professional model which is due to expand services to the whole South Australian and Northern Territory population.

TRACEY MARKHAM
Tracey is a Nurse Practitioner Candidate from Women’s and Children’s Health Network specialising in forensic assault nursing.

Tracey’s proposal is entitled Health care for sexual assault and family domestic violence victims; Fostering engagement and positive outcomes with a forensic response. Tracey plans to visit the United States of America and Canada to explore the management and provision of forensic health care to vulnerable women who have been sexually assaulted.

As the manager and clinical lead of rural and metropolitan nurses caring for victims of sexual assault, Tracey aims to improve the clinical service to consumers, develop robust education packages and improve the recruitment and retention of nurses to this specialty area.

STEVEN BRUNI AND LAUREN GOUDAS
Steven and Lauren are both Clinical Nurses who work in the perioperative suite of the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Central Adelaide Local Health Network.

Steven and Lauren’s proposal is entitled Pressure Injury Risk Assessment and Prevention Strategies in Operating Room Patients – What Can Be Adapted from the United States of America? Together they will travel to the United States of America to investigate the use of pressure injury risk assessment tools.

Their aim is to return with the knowledge with which to develop a similar tool in South Australia to help prevent hospital acquired pressure injuries in the operating room environment.
THANK YOU

SPONSORS

The Nursing and Midwifery Office would like to thank the following sponsors for their valued contribution to the 2017 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

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CELEBRATING Nursing and Midwifery EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2017/2018 SA Premier’s Nursing & Midwifery Scholarship Recipients with the Minister for Health, Hon Jack Snelling MP
International Day of the Midwife – 5 May | International Nurses Day – 12 May

International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day is a time to celebrate the dedication and commitment of all nurses and midwives and raise awareness of their work. It is a day when the community can celebrate the vital contribution made by nurses and midwives in a multitude of practice settings. SA Health continues to utilise social media to acknowledge and thank all of our nurses and midwives for their dedication, passion and commitment, and to showcase their contribution and achievements to the public. During May this year, our posts recognizing our nurses and midwives were seen over 98,000 times. This is a significant level of engagement and certainly acknowledges the important work South Australia’s nurses and midwives do. The feedback on the social media posts is testament to how highly valued midwives and nurses are in our community.

During May, posts recognising nurses and midwives received some amazing results:

- THE POSTS WERE SEEN 98,938 times
- 1,247 people “LIKED” the posts
- 58,757 PEOPLE REACHED
- WAS SHARED 77 TIMES
- 105 COMMENTS were posted
Happy International Midwives Day to all midwives and especially those at FMC

Like · Reply · May 5 at 6:17pm

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Jess Beazley Happy International day of the midwife to all the wonderful midwives who looked after Johnny and I at Flinders Medical Centre. You made my stay in hospital so lovely, I couldn’t have asked for better support. You are all truly angels and deserve to be celebrated on this special day. Lots of love Johnny and Jess x

Like · Reply · 9 · May 5 at 11:32am