This special edition of the Nursing & Midwifery news focuses on the 2016 South Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards that were held on Friday, 6 May at the Adelaide Convention 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 provide inspiration to others and are fine exemplars recognised by their peers, colleagues and clients. These nurses and midwives take pride in their work, practice competently, capably and professionally in their area of practice, and demonstrate leadership to meet and exceed the needs of clients 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; the Hon. Annabel Digance, member for Elder; the Hon Natalie Cook, member for Fisher, Ms Janine Mohamed, Chief Executive Officer, Congress of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Nurses & Midwives and Emeritus Professor Martha Hill visiting from Baltimore, Maryland, former Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, in attendance for this special evening.

I continue to be impressed by the unceasing passion, dedication and resourcefulness of nurses and midwives in this time of continual change, and the benefits and improved outcomes achieved for the community as a result of their work.

I believe it is critical that we do not underestimate the essential and powerful role that nurses and midwives have, in influencing and driving real change whether it is in the local, national or international arena. This is how nurses and midwives strengthen the health system and add real value to it as we work to transform our health care system.

Nurses and midwives are in a prime position to influence and inform health reform and policy by being a part of the decision making process. This can only occur if we avail ourselves of opportunities when they arise. By being a part of these processes we can have a profound impact on outcomes for consumers and the community more broadly. We can inform and develop new models of care, contribute actively to service development and design and bring to the table a unique insight informed by our constant presence with clients and their carers, which allows us to advocate for them with knowledge and authority.

The Awards are held during the week of celebration for International Day of the Midwife and International Nurses Day, 5–12 May 2016. 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. This year, the theme for International Day of the Midwife is: Women and Newborns: The Heart of Midwifery. The importance of making sure that each woman and newborn has access to the best possible care, before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth is at the heart of all midwives. For a woman who is pregnant or giving birth, the best partnership is one with a skilled midwife. This is something that every woman must have access to.

The theme for International Nurses Day is: A Force for Change – Improving health systems’ resilience. Nurses can strengthen and develop resilience within themselves and their colleagues to ultimately develop strong and resilient health systems locally, nationally and globally. It is possible when nurses bring their expertise and creativity to the transformation agenda we can help guide improvements in the quality of health service delivery and inform health systems.
Congratulations to the recipients and finalists of the 2016 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

**AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Excellence in Practice - Registered Nurse**
Jane Keeley  
Country Health SA Local Health Network

**Excellence in Practice – Enrolled Nurse**
Alexander Stewart  
Southern Adelaide Local Health Network

**Excellence in Practice - Registered Midwife**
Merridee Seiboth  
Country Health SA Local Health Network

**Excellence in Practice - Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife**
Vanessa Browne  
Country Health SA Local Health Network

**Excellence in Leadership (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)**
Elisa Gardiner  
Central Adelaide Local Health Network

**Excellence in Innovation in Education (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)**
Vanessa Tilbrook  
Women’s and Children’s Health Network

**Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Research (Registered Nurse/Midwife)**
Pamela Taylor  
Southern Adelaide Diabetes and Endocrine Services, Southern Adelaide Local Health Network

**Excellence in Person Centred Care – Team Award (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife/Enrolled Nurse)**
Hamley Bridge Memorial Hospital Nursing Staff
Nursing and Midwifery EXCELLENCE AWARDS RECIPIENTS 2016

Jane Keeley
Excellence in Practice - Registered Nurse

Alexander Stewart
Excellence in Practice – Enrolled Nurse

Merridee Seiboth
Excellence in Practice – Registered Midwife

Vanessa Browne
Excellence in Practice - Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife

Elisa Gardiner
Excellence in Leadership (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)

Vanessa Tilbrook
Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Research (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)

Pamela Taylor
Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Research (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)

Hamley Bridge Memorial Hospital Nursing Staff
Excellence in Person Centred Care – Team Award (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife/Enrolled Nurse)
2016 Nursing and Midwifery EXCELLENCE AWARDS FINALISTS

AWARD FINALISTS

**Excellence in Practice - Registered Nurse**
Jane Keeley
Kwakyewaa Gyan
Jane Bolton

**Excellence in Practice – Enrolled Nurse**
Alexander Stewart
Lisa Patterson
Vicki Venning

**Excellence in Practice - Registered Midwife**
Roseanne Fisher
Merridee Seiboth

**Excellence in Practice - Aboriginal Nurse/Midwife**
Vanessa Browne
Janine Lebois

**Excellence in Leadership (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)**
Elisa Gardiner
Anne Price
Ruth McPhail

**Excellence in Innovation in Education (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife)**
Vanessa Tilbrook
Tamika Calver
Leanne Stacy

**Excellence in Innovation in Clinical Research (Registered Nurse/Midwife)**
Pamela Taylor
Robyn Clark
Jane Giles

**Excellence in Person Centred Care – Team Award (Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife/Enrolled Nurse)**
Hamley Bridge Memorial Hospital Nursing Staff
Aboriginal Elders Village - Management Team
Whyalla Nurse Led Rape and Sexual Assault Support Service
The **PREMIER’S Nursing and Midwifery SCHOLARSHIPS** 2016/2017

The Minister for Health the Hon Jack Snelling was proud to present the 2016/2017 recipients of the Premier’s Nursing and Midwifery Scholarships at the 2016 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards on behalf of the Premier of South Australia the Hon. Jay Weatherill MP. The scholarships 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 ultimately can transform the quality and delivery of patient care for all South Australians. Five international scholarships to the value of $12,000 were awarded.

**LOUISE DEWOLF**
Louise Dewolf is a Registered Nurse working in Barunga Village, a private Aged Care Facility in Port Broughton.

This Study Tour to the United Kingdom will assist Louise to investigate the Butterfly Care Home program designed specifically for dementia care. Louise will explore the journey of transformation that existing homes have experienced in embracing the philosophy and establishing this model of nursing care.

Louise will gain invaluable experience and contemporary knowledge of this person centred care approach that can be applied to clinical practice in the aged care environment within regional South Australia.

**DAVID HAINS**
David Hains is a mental health Clinical Practice Consultant working in the Emergency Department at Flinders Medical Centre. His role includes the assessment and planning of care for mental health consumers, facilitating admissions or discharges with follow-up support.

David will be visiting Canada to investigate the implementation and success of using Solution Focused Brief Therapy in a variety of mental health settings.

The knowledge gained will inform the implementation of a Solution Focused nursing model within acute Southern Mental Health Services.

**LIZ RANKIN**
Liz Rankin is a Registered Nurse and Midwife in the role of School Nurse at Tyndale Christian School, a private sector school in Adelaide. She is also President of the South Australian School Nurses Association.

Liz will visit the United States of America, United Kingdom and Sweden to learn from areas where school nursing has already been successfully embedded. The knowledge gained from studying strategies, operations and implementation of the school nurse model of care will be utilised to maximise child and youth benefits in South Australia.

**SUE SHARRAD**
Sue Sharrad is a Parkinson’s disease Clinical Practice Consultant for Southern Adelaide Local Health Network.

Sue’s Study Tour will be undertaken in the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada. This Scholarship will assist Sue in gaining an understanding and utilising the experiences and innovations of national and international expertise in the development of a sustainable model of nursing care for South Australians living with Parkinson’s Disease.

**DANA WRIGHT**
Dana Wright is a Clinical Practice Consultant and is the state-wide Transition Coordinator, in the Paediatric Rehabilitation Department, Women’s and Children’s Health Network. In this role, Dana supports the transition of young adults and their families to adult services.

This study tour to the United Kingdom will allow Dana to observe how other sites manage transitional care from a paediatric to an adult setting. The experience and knowledge gained will inform the development of sustainable transition pathways and processes for young adults with disability and or complex health needs moving to adult services in the South Australian context.
Thank You

SPONSORS

The Nursing and Midwifery Office would like to thank the following sponsors for their valued contribution to the 2016 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

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CELEBRATING Nursing and Midwifery EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2016/2017 SA Premier's Nursing & Midwifery Scholarship Recipients with the Minister for Health, Hon. Jack Snelling MP
CELEBRATING Nurses and Midwives through SOCIAL MEDIA!

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 combined reached over 95,000 people. 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:

- 95,372 People viewed the posts
- 2,690 people “LIKED” the post
- 192 TIMES was shared
- 94,682 PEOPLE were reached
- 280 COMMENTS were posted
Happy International Day of the Midwife and Nurses Day to our valued nurses and midwives - you truly are amazing!

COMMENTS

Sue Lee Now that's one MULTISKILLED man. Congratulations to all our hardworking NURSES❤️❤️
Like · Reply · 1 · 13 May at 08:43

Patricia Nelson Congrats to all the Wonderful Midwives
Like · Reply · 5 May at 13:00

Jaine Stadden Chapman Nurses rock
Thanks for everything you do xx
Like · Reply · 3 · 12 May at 18:07

Roxanne Clark Neonatal staff and nurses are simply amazing.
Like · Reply · 4 May at 10:21

Marie McLauchlan So beautiful. Our twin girls were in the Flinders Neo-Natal department for 6 weeks in 2015. The staff are amazing.
Like · Reply · 4 May at 20:22

Chantelle Jones Congrats! Thankyou to all our wonderful health care workers!!
Like · Reply · 4 · 12 May at 11:50