

Nganampa Health Council Clinical Services Annual Report 2012

Vivien Hammond Clinical Services Manager

Nganampa Health Council achieved Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) re-accreditation against the 4th Edition of the RACGP Standards through AGPAL. The process provided the impetus to review and improve clinical practice, systems and standards maintained by the clinics.

All clinics continue to deliver high quality primary health care services and respond to acute health needs of the population. As organisational systems improve for the early identification and management of chronic illness, clinic staff work hard to manage the consequent increasing workloads.

Program work and Primary Health Care

Clinic teams strive to maintain clinical surveillance activities associated with program work. Program Coordinators and locum nurses with particular clinical skills provide critical support to the generic clinical teams in maintaining programmatic work. Improving clinical surveillance activities in the clinics will continue to be a focus for clinical staff in this coming year.

Program Coordinators play a significant role in continuing to refine the necessary screening activities to detect and monitor key indicators for chronic illness, prophylactic interventions and health improvements.

Communicare continues to provide the benefits of secure, 24-hour access to current patient information by Medical Officers, Program Coordinators and clinic teams. This is critical to continuity and timeliness of care.

Clinical Education

Orientation to the clinics and remote area nursing can often make a big difference to early experiences for nurses new to remote health practice and to their retention. Finding ways to improve this aspect of clinical education that are sustainable and effective is challenging. Existing clinic staff can struggle to find the time to provide adequate orientation for new locum staff. The Health Council is looking at ways to improve this aspect of the induction period for new nurses on the APY Lands.

This year the Australian College of Emergency Nursing have run the International Trauma Life Supports courses – both paediatric and Adult and the Emergency Nurse Paediatric Course. The Centre for Remote Health conducted the Pharmacotherapeutics Course for Remote Area Nurses. All of these courses were provided to nurses at the Umuwa Regional Office.

A TAFE-SA on-line course on Child Safe Environments has been introduced to maintain what is now a mandatory competency for clinical staff. On-line Occupational Health and Safety and basic clinical theory update training courses continue to be used to supplement off site training to minimise the amount of time nurses need to be away from the clinics for professional development. There continues to be regular Communicare and Program on-line workshops and teleconferences throughout the year. Program coordinators visit clinics and provide support by phone throughout the year. Nurses continue to maintain and frequently exceed the 20 CPD points required to meet annual national registration requirements.