
FROM THE EDITOR – Dr Jackie Jones RN PhD

RECOGNISING AND CELEBRATING NURSING AND NURSES

In recent discussions with nurses it has become apparent that more often than not nurses themselves are challenged when it comes to being able to recognise and celebrate the work that they and their fellow nursing colleagues do. Nurses seem more adept at criticising or naming what it is they have not been able to achieve rather than applaud their successes. When asking nurses to consider a 'reward and recognition' strategy as part of enhancing team vitality many nurses are silent or claim suggestions put forward by others as childish. It begs the question: 'What has happened to our sense of fun and adventure, our collegiality within our professional discourses?' In the day to day milieu of complex nursing work have we lost sight of the fact we are all social creatures, individuals but socially networked nevertheless?

Team vitality, the 'giest' of nursing, makes a significant contribution to the way in which work is experienced by nurses every day and the outcomes for patients that nurses are able to achieve and feel satisfied by. Paying attention to the little things like how do we say 'thank you' to each other and how do we celebrate a great moment within a shift, let alone the shift itself, can therefore make a significant contribution to the value-added for nursing and nurses.

International Nurses Day is a great way to recognise and celebrate nursing and nurses. Some health environments formally celebrate through clinical excellence awards; hold breakfasts or morning teas in honour of their nursing staff; whilst others provide the time honoured tradition of distributing chocolates. I would ask you to pause and reflect a moment on what you have achieved recently and furthermore, what your colleagues in nursing have achieved; then contemplate what you intend to do to celebrate. How will you recognise and celebrate nursing today?

International Nurses Day 12th May 2007 is arriving yet again marks not only the passage of time but also signals another era for AJAN. The theme for this year set by the International Council of Nurses is 'Positive practice environments: quality workplaces = quality patient care'. Here at AJAN we aim to support the development of quality patient care and inform positive practice environments through the publication of research and scholarly papers both of and within nursing. In this edition we have substantially increased the number of papers from 6 to 10 in an attempt to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to nursing practice environments as quickly as publication processes allow. In the near future AJAN will move into the online domain which will again mean our papers are more readily available and accessible. It is also a time of change for me personally as I will no longer be undertaking the stewardship of AJAN in the Editor role. I have enjoyed the privilege of being able to make a contribution to the development of ideas, scholarship, and reviewing the writing skills of nurses over the past three years. I look forward to a new era of online presence for AJAN.

This is a time for recognition and celebration of nursing and how we are developing. New directions bring fresh new perspectives and in this edition our papers present us with new perspectives on tools to facilitate our practice (Webster et al, Skinner et al, and Duff et al); insights into the perspectives of patients' experiences of the consequences of surgery (Bandyopadhyay et al, Ballan, and Lee); insights into the perspectives of nurses and the environments in which they work (Mellor et al, and Seal). Some important issues are also raised through an exploration of hospital restructuring on the nursing workforce (Duffield et al) and more intrinsically on the structure and impact of the language of nursing (Allen).