



Western Cape Department of Health

NURSES UPDATE

Issue 2

January – March 2005



FOREWORD BY THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT PROFESSOR KC HOUSEHAM

During the course of 2005 the nurses of the Western Cape were faced with many challenges. The past year was not an easy one but efforts to bring about change are being made. The nurses of the Western Cape have definitely done the department and province proud and the Cecelia Makiwane and Marilyn Lehane award nominees are concrete proof thereof. Although not all nurses could win the first prize, every nurse contributed to the successful smooth running of every hospital and clinic. Thank you to all of you for your positive contributions. May you go forth and continue to do the department and province proud. Have a prosperous New Year and may 2006 hold many good surprises for all of you.

WHY WAS 'NURSES UPDATE' ESTABLISHED?

Nurses Update is a new communications tool to reach an important sector in the health industry, OUR Nurses. This Newsletter will be compiled on a quarterly basis and will contain information that will be of interest to all categories of nurses, including those in training.

The information is compiled by the Communications Directorate and endorsed by Professor Craig Househam, Head of the Department as well as the Provincial Nurses Committee. The Nursing Committee, the Human Resources Development Directorate and

Heads of Nursing at the various facilities will give supporting information.

Any comments and suggestions from nurses will be appreciated as this Newsletter is dedicated to YOU!

TYGERBERG SCHOOL OF NURSING DELIVERS TRAINING EXCELLENCE

The Nurse Training School of Tygerberg Hospital excelled once again in the South African Nursing Council examinations with a 100 % pass rate, with five students scoring full honours and nine with distinctions.

With their motto, "Excellence in training", the school has set a record of excellence in theoretical as well as practical training by maintaining an almost 100% pass rate in the external South African Nursing Council's examination through the years. This could only be achieved through the outstanding dedication and keen

interest that the lecturing personnel take in each learner. Learners are supported by lecturers through intensive remedial programmes on a one-to-one basis. Year after year the Nursing School delivered confident, skillful and knowledgeable enrolled nurses, who are the proud products of this small education unit.

On 1 February 1997 the first group of seventeen enrolled auxiliary nurses, embarked on the one year bridging course according to the South African Nursing Council's Regulation 2175 – sixteen from Tygerberg and

one male nurse from Lentegour Hospital. All learners passed – 14 with full honours and nine with subject distinctions.

The groups that followed achieved outstanding results. On several occasions, the school delivered the candidates with the highest theoretical or practical marks nationally. This was acknowledged by the Provincial Minister of Health's in the form of a certificate to the learners.

PALSA - (Practical Approach to Lung Health and HIV/Aids in South Africa) - nurses new training package

PALSA stand for the Practical Approach to Lung Health and HIV/Aids in South Africa. It will be the new training package for nursing practitioners, to detect acute and chronic respiratory illnesses including tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is the leading cause of death with HIV patients and this project should assist in bringing these numbers down. PALSA will also empower clinicians with early detection.

This project is being implemented in the Western Cape. October 2005 to January 2006 will be the set-up Phase and in February or March 2006 on-site training will begin.

A National Task team has been appointed to investigate the bench-marking of nursing personnel.

A Poem for our Nurses

by Sister Louis Appollis

Who is able to achieve

To achieve, lies within all of us.
Climb till your dreams come true.
Intelligence is not your LADDER, but
PERSERVERANCE.
You've got what it takes to get there!
It's not always easy, but worthwhile.
With strength from above, you can make it
happen,
Hurdles are there only to make us strong.
Don't ever see yourself as a FAILURE cause
"The only failure is to loose and not to try
again".
If you have a personal goal, apply your mind
to it.
Stay focused "THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR
YOU".

NATIONAL HEALTH AWARDS

The 2005 National Health Awards function was held at the Gallagher Estate in Midrand, Johannesburg on Friday 9 December 2005. Amongst the honored guests were Dr Manto Tshabala-Msimang, National Health Minister and Pierre Uys, the Western Cape MEC.

All nine Provincial winners attended the function and competed for amongst others, the National titles of the Cecile Makiwane and Marilyn Lehane Awards.

Patsy Collins, the Provincial winner for the Cecilia Makiwane award, who received her award on Monday, 24 October 2005 at Zevenwacht Estate, represented the Western Cape.

The National Marilyn Lehane Award was won by Sister Jane Booth of Red Cross Children's Hospital.

GROOTE SCHUUR CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Annually the student nurses finally have their day of glory - their graduation! Before this wonderful celebration took place students undertook an external examination in November under the diligent eye of the South African Nursing Council. December 8, was D-day for the class of 2005. The celebrations were held in Rochester House with Mrs Bernadette Arries, Chief Director: Human Resources, as the guest speaker. Approximately 57 students graduated from Groote Schuur Hospital's training programme in 2005.

Front row, l - r: E. Plaatjies, D. Adams, M. Maxwell, D. Juba, N.D. Ibakoane, J. Oerson, S. Mc Ivers, Mrs. B. Flotman (Tutor) A. Mentoer, M. Cornellissen and Mrs. G. Fisher (Tutor); **middle row, l - r:** P. van Wyk, J. Ely, R. Bazola, C. Fredericks, M. Haas, S. Pick, M. Stewart, M. Adonis and R. Petersen; **back row, l - r:** I. Schuller, D. Kennedy (Tutor) K. Karelse, N. Mafanga, C. Patel, S. Clarke, L. Pfeiffer, E. Brown, M. Driver and B. Davids.



Send your comments and suggestions to Ferial Soeker at the Communications Directorate on fsoeker@pgwc.gov.za or fax to 483 6169.