

NCAHA NEWS

Your monthly communication from the
North Coast Allied Health Association



Message from the Board

Lindy Swain,
NCAHA Board



Who are we? Where are we working?

Have you participated in the North Coast Allied Health and Nursing Census yet? This exciting project will paint a picture of the Allied Health and Nursing workforce on the North Coast.

The Census is necessary because no organisation, locally or nationally, has a complete map of Allied Health Professionals and nurses and the important services you provide. Building a primary health care profile will help connect clinicians locally and assist all health services to meet the growing health care needs of our communities.

North Coast Primary Health Network (NCPHN) is undertaking this census in partnership with NCAHA, Southern Cross University, the University Centre for Rural Health, the Mid North Coast Local Health District, the Northern NSW Local Health District, the NSW Rural Doctor's Network and individual Allied Health Professionals and nurses.

We strongly encourage you to complete this census now and to promote it to your colleagues before **Friday 1 September 2017**.

In-scope clinicians include Allied Health and nursing professionals who:

- Work in private practice or for an NGO.
- Accept self-referred patients.
- Hold a tertiary qualification (with the exception of practitioners working in Aboriginal health and low intensity mental health services).

A full list of in-scope clinicians is available for download from:
<http://bit.ly/2wR3mhl>

Allied Health Professionals working exclusively for a NSW Health service, doctors working as private medical specialists or general practitioners and complementary health professionals are not in-scope of the Census. While they are valued members of the primary health care workforce, data on these clinicians will be gained from other databases and activities.

The first part of the Census asks for contact and service information to help promote your service to the community and other clinicians. With your permission, this information can be shared publicly and uploaded by NCPHN on your service's behalf onto the National Health Services Directory and relevant HealthPathways.

We will continue to work closely with our partners to advocate for Allied Health Professionals and the more information on this census, the better we can do that.



[Click here to start the Census >>](#)

For more information visit www.ncphn.org.au/ah-census/

Christine Vannucci, Registered Nurse, Diversity Inclusion Officer, Alzheimer's Australia NSW

While nursing had always been attractive to Christine Vannucci, she worked in admin and bookkeeping for 14 years before undertaking her nursing studies. It was the year her eldest son started high school and the youngest commenced kindergarten. Her broad-ranging career is a good illustration of the huge potential available to Registered Nurses.



Christine completed her Bachelor of Nursing at the University of New England and knew quickly that nursing was the career she wanted to pursue.

“Throughout my degree I worked as a Personal Care Assistant at a low care Residential Care Facility which helped direct my career choices. After completing a post graduate year at Armidale Hospital I spent some time working in a high care facility, in the Community Nursing team and as a member of the New England Aged Care Assessment Team before securing a permanent role with the latter.”

After a number of challenging and rewarding years, Christine's family moved to the Mid North Coast where she began work as the Psychogeriatric Support Nurse with the Aged Care Team in Taree.

“While I continued to enjoy assessment work, I found myself wanting to again work with clients beyond the assessment stage and I took up the position of Respite Coordinator with a local community aged care service based in Taree. This service was responsible for the introduction and provision of flexible, in-home, day and overnight cottage respite across three local government areas. They also provided aged care packages and for the last six months of my employment I was the Sector Manager.”

When Christine moved to Tweed Heads six years ago she took up the role of Sector Development Project Officer with Alzheimer's Australia NSW. Since this time her work has focused on community development, capacity building and engaging with diverse community groups to promote dementia awareness and risk reduction strategies.

“This is such important work as it's estimated there are 413,000 people living with dementia in Australia in 2017, a number projected to be more than 1,100,000 by 2056,” she said.

Christine recalls many career highlights, but 2006 opening of the Star of the Sea Respite Cottage in Forster stands out for her.

“This continues to be a fantastic service supporting carers and care recipients offering flexible, person-centred, short-term day and overnight respite. I am still extremely proud of what this service has achieved and that it has continued to grow from strength to strength.”

Other career highlights include the 'Beach to Bush' Aboriginal Elders bus trip to Moree in 2014; presenting at the National LGBTIQ Seniors Conference in 2015; facilitating Homelessness & Dementia seminars across NSW in 2015; and being part of the Tweed Dementia Friendly Community Project from 2016.

Christine finds great satisfaction in being able to provide appropriate, useful information to clients and service providers. She can offer valuable insight into service pathways and options to 'look outside the box'. She also enjoys networking and gathering resources to share.

Christine said that working in community development had given her a better understanding of referral pathways for dementia services.

“It's allowed me to work on enhancing the early detection of dementia and ensuring timely referrals. I've been able to facilitate activities to raise awareness of dementia and promote risk reduction across the community.

“I like to share the vision of a dementia friendly community. Having experience working across different sectors of aged care has also given me a more balanced view of the system as a whole.”

Christine is acutely aware that our brains matter!

“Research suggests that leading a brain healthy life may reduce a person's risk of developing dementia later. Certainly there are no guarantees, but as dementia cannot yet be prevented or cured, prevention is our best weapon.

“There is evidence that people can reduce their risk for dementia and other chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease and cancer by adopting healthy lifestyles. It's never too late, or too early, to start looking after your brain.”

Editor's note: *We would like to thank Christine for her hard work. She plays an important role across the region distributing information and promoting health initiatives.*

Are you trained in fitting Ring Pessaries?

HealthPathways has recently developed the **Ring Pessary Referrals** page which lists private providers who are trained in fitting ring pessaries. Public gynaecology clinics are also listed.

If you provide a ring pessary fitting service and you would like to be listed on the private providers listing, go to the **Ring Pessary Referrals** page and simply access press the 'send feedback' button at the top right of page and enter your details. One of our team members will make contact with you to obtain relevant information for your listing.

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The **Ring Pessary Referrals** page will soon be linked from the referral section of the Pelvic Organ Prolapse HealthPathways. The pathway is currently in draft and nearing finalisation to be sent to the live Mid and North Coast HealthPathways website.

Our website currently has over 15 other Allied Health pathways which link the referrer to a range of Allied Health services. Go to the **Allied Health** link to view which services are provided.

If your service is listed on a referral page and there is a change to your service listing, or if you would like your service added, please contact HealthPathways.

To view all Mid and North Coast Localise HealthPathways visit:

<https://manc.healthpathways.org.au/index.htm>

Username: manchealth

Password: conn3ct3d

For further information about HealthPathways please contact:

Kerrie Keyte
(07) 5589 0500
kkeyte@ncphn.org.au
(Northern NSW)

People Management Skills Program

Target Audience: Middle Managers, NUMS and Senior Allied Health Professionals

The Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) is pleased to advise the *People Management Skills Program* (PMSP) is open for enrolments for 10-11 October 2017 in Ballina.

This six-month blended learning course provides NSW Health employees with the knowledge and applied skills required to manage people. Participants learn how to effectively support teams, positively manage challenging situations and develop core skills for effective people management.

You cannot register for this course through My Health Learning. The only way to register is via HETI-Management@health.nsw.gov.au.

Please ensure your manager's approval is attached to the email.

Contact and support:

HETI Management Development unit staff are available to provide information and support to current and potential participants between 7:30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Contact HETI via telephone on 02 9844 6136 or email HETI-Management@health.nsw.gov.au.

Registrations close 10 September 2017.

Thursday 14th September 2017

Richmond Valley



Casino-Kyogle
Clinical
Society to be
launched at
this event!!

“SPEED NETWORKING”

A free, fun and interactive meeting for Richmond Valley health practitioners!

- Put a face to the name - meet local health care colleagues – doctors, nurses, allied health practitioners and specialists
- Share your experiences of multi-disciplinary practice
- Promote your services and enrich your knowledge of shared patient care
- Discover what *HealthPathways* is all about and the benefits it can bring to your practice and your patients

Thursday 14 September
6.00pm: Registration & dinner
6.30pm: Speed networking
8:00pm: Launch of Casino-Kyogle Clinical Society
8:30pm: Close

Enquiries & more information
Stephanie Hunt
6618 5428
shunt@ncphn.org.au

Casino RSM Club
162 Canterbury St
Casino NSW 2470

Please RSVP by 8th September
www.rvspeednetworking.eventbrite.com.au

Allied Health Practitioners Don't Miss Your Chance to be Noticed



Take part in our workforce census
by 1 Sept 2017

Benefits of Completing the Census:

Get More Enquiries For Your Service!

North Coast Primary Health Network will help promote your service by creating or updating your National Health Services Directory listing if desired.



Help Us Plan, Support and Connect

This Census will help ensure our health system is equipped to meet the growing health care needs of North Coast communities. It will connect clinicians locally and help us plan for the future workforce.

For more information visit
www.ncphn.org.au/ah-census/

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 6 September

Webinar: Supporting the Mental Health of People Living with Obesity

Friday 8 September

World Suicide Prevention Day Community Forum – Brisbane

Monday 11 September - Tuesday 12 September

13th Annual ADMA Conference – Darwin

Tuesday 12 September

Health & the NDIS – Brisbane

Thursday 14 September

Speed Networking – Casino

Friday 15 September

Safeguarding Yourself – Recognising and Responding to Vicarious Trauma – Ballina

Wednesday 20 September

Allied Forces Approach: The War on Parkinson's Seminar – Coffs Harbour

Thursday 21 September

Journey Through Dementia – Coffs Harbour

Saturday 23 September

The Art and Science of Client Relationships – Byron Bay

Friday 29 September

Counselling Skills for the Accidental Counsellor – Lismore

Friday 6 October

Private Practice and Medico-Legal Conference – Brisbane

More Events

Visit www.ncphn.org.au/events to view the North Coast Primary Health Network Events Calendar.



North Coast
Allied Health Association

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NCAHA is proudly supported by
North Coast Primary Health Network