



CATSINaM

CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Newsletter

Issue 1 | March 2014

From the CEO

Hello and welcome to the first Newsletter of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives since my appointment as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer in July 2013.



With much to do to revitalise the organisation to ensure delivery of first class services for our members and stakeholders, the first six months of my appointment has been, without doubt, fast paced. Many thanks to all of those organisations and individuals which have, and continue to, offer their assistance and support to ensure that CATSINaM goes from strength to strength, particularly our funding body, the Department of Health.

In addition to finalising our Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 and its accompanying Business Plan, we have strengthened the internal capacity of the organisation, added 'Midwives' to our organisation name to better reflect our members, established a new corporate image, strengthened our governance, and commenced implementation of the contract deliverables in our Strategic Plan.

CATSINaM are excited by the progress to date and we will share some of the most outstanding achievements with you in this newsletter. We hope to continue to bring you a newsletter on a quarterly basis and would love to include your events, stories and achievements.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the CATSINaM newsletter. If you have any queries or contributions, please contact Arika or Chrys.

Kind regards
Janine

Membership Increase

Since July 2013, our membership has increased by 278% with full members by 302% and student members by 226%. This is a huge increase, largely due to the new management, revitalisation strategy, and our members referring friends and family.

CATSINaM currently has three categories of membership: Full, Associate and Students. All members identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

A fourth category called 'Affiliate' is being explored to provide an opportunity for individual non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives to join as well as organisations.



Social Media Statistics Soar

The level of activity on our website has increased significantly with 3,076 unique visits of which 1,236 or 40.2% were new visitors. To ensure continued interest, we are currently finalising a revitalised website with the new corporate image and increased usability for members.

Similarly, CATSINaM increased the use and promotion of our Facebook page in August 2013, resulting in 2,070 likes and an average rating of 4.5 to date. You can join us at www.facebook.com/catsinam

CATSINaM's Twitter account has also been used regularly with 113 followers to date. It was a highly successful initiative for communication during the National Conference.



New Website Coming Soon!

Our Board

At CATSINaM's 2013 AGM, two new members joined the Board, Vicki Holliday (NSW) and Shane Mohor (SA). Shane has been appointed to the CATSINaM President position and comes with a wealth of nursing knowledge as well as many years involvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Our current Board includes:



Shane Mohor (SA) (President)



Anne Maree Maher (ACT)



Vicki Holliday (NSW)



Faye Clarke (VIC)



Deborah Miller (TAS)



Jane Jones (WA)



Ted Murphy (NT)

Vacant (QLD)

The Board completed various governance activities during September-December 2013 including:

- Finance Training
- Board Training
- Annual General Meeting
- Extraordinary meeting for name change
- Development of the Strategic Plan

New Staff

Four new CATSINaM staff members have been recruited over the last six months. They come with a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to ensure that CATSINaM is relevant to its members and makes a difference to the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives. CATSINaM's long standing employees Chrys Stuart and Karen Atkinson remain with our organisation whilst Robyn Coulthard, after many years of dedication and service, has retired.

New CATSINaM staff members include:



Chloe Peters
Admin Officer



Irene Peachey
Membership Engagement Officer



Colleen Gibbs
Senior Policy and Research Officer



Arika Errington
Casual Communications Officer

Policy Framework

Since our conference, we have taken on board your feedback and progressed the development of position statement priorities in three draft position statements, namely cultural safety, clinical placements, and recruitment and retention. These draft position statements went out for consultation to members from which the feedback was incorporated and the drafts are now with our Board.

CATSINaM has not only formally responded to the Twiggy Forest Review and the ANMAC Midwifery standards but also published articles in the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Nursing Federation Journal and the National Indigenous Times, put out four media releases, and taken on a number of media engagements to ensure the aspirations of our members is heard.

CATSINaM has a Home!



CATSINaM has moved twice in the last six months, initially in July to Civic as a temporary measure and more recently in December to a long-term arrangement in Majura Park, which provides for the current complement of staff and future growth.

On the Road

CATSINaM is visiting each state/territory in the 2013-14 financial year and holding a series of workshops to discuss the following with members and potential members.

Our current approach to:

- Member benefits
- Professional development requirements
- Member support needs

The first forum was held in Perth during November 2013 and a second was held in the NT on 16-17 February 2014 and Adelaide on 26 February. Other dates include:

Queensland: Brisbane

Date: 19 March 2014

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: Mercure Brisbane, 85-87 North Quay, Brisbane

ACT: Canberra

Date: 21 March 2014

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: 5 Lancaster Drive, Majura Park

New South Wales: Sydney

Date: 25 March 2014

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: Mercure, 818-820 George Street, Sydney

Victoria: Melbourne

Date: 26 March 2014

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: Citigate Melbourne – 270 Flinders Street, Melbourne

Tasmania: Launceston

Date: 27 March 2014

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: TBA

Tasmania: Hobart

Date: 27 March 2014

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: TBA

We will hold our last national teleconference for people who cannot attend a forum but would like to participate, or who are in locations we cannot visit at this point in time, on the 19th March 2014.

This work builds on the conference feedback and the online survey which 70% of our membership undertook to assist us shape the future communications and work of CATSINaM – *Thank You!*

National Conference

The highlight of our year was most certainly the 15th National Conference held in Canberra from 6-8 October. We saw many new and familiar faces, and everyone participated enthusiastically in the breakout sessions and two Yarning Circles: one focused on professional support, specifically member support, professional development and member benefits; and the second focused on policy position and research topic priorities. We are likely, due to the success of the Yarning Circles, to incorporate this activity in future conferences. High profile speakers included Roianne West, Pat Anderson, Donna Ah Chee, and Dr Tom Calma, among many other relevant plenary speakers.

Through the Yarning Circles, we identified the need for mandatory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content on health, history, culture, and cultural safety in all Nursing and Midwifery training programs leading to accreditation endorsement. We are collaborating well with ANMAC to elevate the importance of this.

94 amazing people participated in the conference with 12 being student nurses and midwives for which CATSINaM provided 9 bursaries.

During the conference dinner our key note guest, Dr Rosemary Bryant, presented the Inaugural Sally Goold Award for individual nursing and/or midwifery excellence to Noela Baigrie and Roianne West, along with the Inaugural CATSINaM Partnership Award for organisations recognising culturally respectful, committed, and successful partnerships to Lyell McEwin Hospital in Adelaide.



Relationships and Partnerships

CATSINaM has presented and occupied booths at open forums such as the HWA Conference, NACCHO Summit, the National Primary Health Care Conference, and the IAHA Conference.

In November 2013, we offered cultural safety training to our non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaborators, setting a great foundation for enhancing our working relationship with the small number who were able to attend.

Mentoring

The aim of the CATSINaM Mentoring Program is to help members who are studying to be a nurse or midwife. Mentoring is not just about sharing knowledge, ideas and skills, but about growing into the complex role of a nurse.

We at CATSINaM want this program to be vibrant and dynamic so we are reviewing the initiative. To date, we have established a steering committee with a number of members who have been a mentor or mentee or just have an interest in the program. Their role will be to:

- Provide advice on planning and implementing the review process.
- Contribute information from their experience with the existing CATSINaM Mentoring Program.
- Contribute information through consulting other Members about their experience with the CATSINaM Mentoring Program.
- Review and provide feedback on documents produced through the review ie review outcomes report and a revised Mentoring Program proposal.

We hope to finish the review later this year but will keep you up to date with our progress.

Closing the Gap Parliamentary Event

As a part of CATSINaM's membership on the Health Leadership Forum and the National Close the Gap Committee, we were fortunate to be involved in the Prime Ministers Close the Gap Parliamentary Report and Day. As the Prime Minister stated, "It is a day that brings all sides of governments together".

CATSINaM representatives met with a number of politicians and discussed our concerns about there only being 16 years to go to close the gap so we need to build on success, continue the national effort as a priority, and expand and strengthen it in key areas with bold policy initiatives.

We are beginning to see reductions in smoking rates and improvements in maternal and childhood health that can be expected to flow into increases in life expectancy. These positive outcomes provide evidence that the national effort to close the gap is working and that generational change is possible.

The COAG Reform Council's report indicates that there has been good progress on three targets (child mortality rates, early childhood education, and year 12 or equivalent attainment) but results for the remaining three targets (overall life expectancy, academic achievement, and employment outcomes) are less positive.

Source: COAG Reform Council, Indigenous Reform 2011-12: Comparing performance across Australia

We also had the opportunity to discuss CATSINaM and our members' vital role in closing the gap personally with the Prime Minister (please see our media release).



Coming Soon

- The announcement of our 2014 conference dates, location and theme
- Meeting with the Council of Deans and Chief Nurses
- New CATSINaM website
- Meeting with our Patron, the Governor General
- Launching our first Position Statements

Further Information

Further information about CATSINaM is available via:

- Friday News
- CATSINaM Annual Report
- Brochures (pathways to becoming a nurse or midwife)
- CATSINaM Newsletter

To obtain copies of the above or to enquire further about CATSINaM, please contact:

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CATSINaM

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