

AGENDA 15.2

Lutheran Nurses of Australia (including Parish Nursing)

MEMBERS

Roger Atze, Rose Howard, Sylvia Hutt (President/Chairperson), Marcia Hyde, Megan Materne, Vicki Minge, Lyn Pech, Lynette Wiebusch

BACKGROUND

Health crises can challenge the faith of patients and those close to them, as well as their professional Carers. The LNAA was founded in 1990 set up as a support group for Christian Nurses. In particular for student and novice nurses needing support and guidance with ethical issues so that they would benefit from older Christian nurses being mentors and to help answer the question 'Where is God in these encounters?'

ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST PLAN

Objectives	Planned Annual Activities/Outcomes	Achievement of Annual Activities/Outcomes
1. To encourage members to see their profession as a service to Christ, caring for the sick and infirm promoting health and giving an opportunity for Christian witness to the world.	Financial support for Parish Nurse/Pastoral Care Nurse Ministry. Participation in Parish Nurse Seminar promoting LNAA. Articles in the newsletter have a Christian focus.	Financial support for Parish Nurse/Pastoral Care Nurse Ministry. Participation in Parish Nurse Seminar promoting LNAA. Articles in the newsletter have a Christian focus.
2. To provide spiritual support and practical guidance for members, foster their deeper spiritual understanding and provide opportunities for the study of practical and ethical issues related to their work.	Guest speakers on various health related topics are organised for every meeting. Evidence of Continuous Professional Development provided for working nurses. Regular scheduled Forum discussions on ethical issues aimed to give anyone concerned an opportunity to express their concerns and to remind that the Lord walks with us always	Guest speakers on various health related topics are organised for every meeting. Evidence of Continuous Professional Development provided for working nurses. Regular scheduled Forum discussions on ethical issues with Forum Moderator who always reminding about the power of the Word and Sacraments bringing the grace of our Lord to the carers and the cared for.
3. To provide opportunities for discussion, mutual sharing, moral support, social contact and fellowship among members.	Facebook page established in the name of Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia.	Guest speakers encourage questions during and at the end of their talks. Supper is provided which allows time for discussions and networking. Forum discussions on ethical issues in particular give opportunity mutual sharing.

		The Executive and Spiritual counsellor are available for contact by phone.
4. To communicate with members via a regular publication	The IN TOUCH newsletter is published and sent to each member as well as to church leaders and others 6 times a year before each meeting	The IN TOUCH newsletter is published and sent to each member as well as to church leaders and others 6 times a year before each meeting,
5. Aims to keep members informed of opportunities for service in the church.	The LNAA supports & promotes Parish Nursing. Where possible informs members of nursing positions available at LCA aged care facilities through the IN TOUCH newsletter.	The LNAA supports and promotes Parish Nursing. Where possible informs members of nursing positions available at LCA aged-care facilities through the IN TOUCH newsletter. A Distance Education version of the Introduction to Pastoral Care Nursing course has been developed. Several people have completed this course, others have enrolled.
6. To support nurses experiencing difficulties in the work place, especially student nurses.	Older and/or more experienced members are willing to act as mentors to student and novice nurses and healthcare workers.	

SUCSESSES

- Facebook - increasing reach of LNAA to younger "tech-savvy" practitioners
- IN TOUCH newsletter issued to every member plus other significant bodies six times a year.
- Tour of South Australian Health Medical Research Institute organised & well attended.
- Top quality speakers willing to present on a voluntary basis so that evidence of Continuous Professional Development can be given to working nurses. Donation made to charity of each guest speaker's choice.
- Attendances at meetings averaged 20 (ranging between 18 - 25) and included visitors who are always welcome if the topic is of interest to them.
- Membership fees remain at \$25 for working nurses \$20 for non-working nurses and associates. Electronic payment option working satisfactorily.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- To keep aware of controversies relating to Facebook - Contrary to what some people may think, communication technology is a great gift from God for us to connect with those at a distance.
- Healthcare workers are probably drawn to their profession because of compassion leading them to work with vulnerable people. Looking after other people all the time may take its toll, so it is important to avoid compassion fatigue.
- As with any year, there will be challenges but Christian nurses and healthcare workers could see them as opportunities for Christian witness to the world.

- Sometimes it seems advances in technology are happening with such speed that we may lose control, especially if they are in the wrong hands the challenge is to trust our Creator, and that good things will result from this technology
- It is reported that Health is one of the fastest growing employment industries in Australia. About 51,400 extra registered nurses - in both public and private institutions are forecast to be needed between 2015 - 2020. Many of these will be Christian nurses who may desire a safe place to debrief from stressful situations and be reminded that Jesus is with them ALWAYS.

RISKS

- If members don't step up when vacancies for key executive positions arise, the organisation will fold.
- If, for whatever reason, the newsletter IN TOUCH cannot be issued to members the organisation's viability will be threatened.

ALIGNMENT TO LCA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2013-2018

- We have a God given gift, and our profession is the vehicle to use that gift. The LNAA is here to remind us that, through our caring for the sick and infirm, the light of Jesus shines through us.
- Christian nurses can take reassurance from the words of Bishop Henderson (*The Lutheran*, 17 March): 'As we go out into the world ... God tells us we do not go alone. He goes with us, blessing us so we can bless others. Our hands are his hands, our feet his feet. Such a blessing fills our lives with meaning, purpose and vitality. Being blessed takes away the need to be anxious and self-absorbed. We don't need to carry everything on our own. We are free of all that.'
- All things are possible for those who believe especially when surrounded by people who share a passionate commitment around a common purpose. We look forward to possibilities which will unfold in the future as we remember Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*
- In our daily life 'storms' happen causing us to worry and forget our connection with Christ. The LNAA reminds Christian nurses and healthcare workers "as you go about your day, take Jesus with you because He does care!"

COOPERATING LCA BOARDS AND AGENCIES

Parish/Pastoral Care Nursing – See Appendix to LNAA report

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

LNAA's only income is from membership fees, interest from bank accounts and the occasional donation.

The LNAA is able to meet all of its financial obligations allowing annual fees to remain the same at \$25 for working nurses and \$20 for retired and associate members.

All executive positions as well as the position of editor of the Newsletter are held on a voluntary basis.

LNAA financially supports Parish/Pastoral Care Nursing.

Thank you to the LCA South Australian District office for allowing us to use their premises and audio-visual equipment at a rent representing very little cost when compared with the

actual value received.

APPENDIX: LUTHERAN PARISH NURSES

Parish Nursing, or Pastoral Care Nursing as it is increasingly being called, is an holistic ministry of the church that functions with the support of the Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia, which has a Parish Nurse subcommittee. It has progressed steadily since the last General Synod. However, although it was introduced to the LCA more than 20 years ago, and officially recognised as a ministry of the church by the LCA's General Synod in the year 2000, it is still not widely known or understood.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN SYNODICAL PERIOD AGAINST PLAN

Objectives or Main Duties	Key outcomes over the synodical period
1. Promote Parish/Pastoral Care Nursing	Gave after-service Powerpoint presentations at various congregations. Provided news items to LCA publications. Forwarded Parish Nursing newsletters to church leaders. Kept church leaders aware of role and developments in Parish/Pastoral Care Nursing.
2. Support Parish/Pastoral Care Nurses	Prepared and distributed resources, including regular newsletter. Maintained personal contact with Pastoral Care/Parish Nurses as possible.
3. Provide education opportunities	Arranged in-service seminars in 2015 and 2016 that drew elders, carers and other lay personnel as well as nurses. Because of the Lay Workers conference in 2017 there was no seminar that year. Some PNs participated in study tours to New Zealand (2015), Brazil (2016) and England (2017) organised on behalf of Lutheran Parish Nurses International.

SUCSESSES

- The introduction of a Distance Education version of the *Introduction to Pastoral Care Nursing* course. The first person to complete this course received her graduation certificate at Minlaton on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula, on 1 March 2015 and was installed as Pastoral Care Nurse in the same service.
- Pastoral Care/Parish Nurse seminars have been presented annually, at Hamilton, Victoria, in 2013, and at Unley in suburban Adelaide in 2014. Participants have included church elders, lay assistants, and congregational visitors and carers as well as Pastoral Care/Parish Nurses.
- Four Australians participated in a Parish Nurse study tour to New Zealand in 2015 I organised on behalf of Lutheran Parish Nurses International – a global network of Lutheran Parish Nurses. One person joined the study tour to Brazil that I organised in 2016. Four Australians joined the tour to England that I organised in 2017. These tours enable participants to learn about Lutheranism and Parish Nursing in the countries visited, as well as to network with people from other countries. A formal seminar is part of each tour.
- Nurses who have relinquished their nursing registration, and people whose background is in health-related professions, may now be recognised as 'Pastoral Health Care Workers', serving in the Pastoral Care/Parish Nurse ministry within the limits of their education, experience and scope of practice. Several retired nurses have taken advantage of this option to continue to serve.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Activities/Program-specific

- Pastoral Care Nurses are serving in LCA aged care facilities, one in an LCA College, and in local congregation. Several others who have completed an Introduction to Pastoral Care Nursing course are serving in a voluntary capacity in their local congregation, without being officially appointed.
- The scope of ministry for a Pastoral Care Nurse is very broad, determined by the needs of the congregation and its community, the skills and experience of the nurse and the time available to serve in this ministry.

Organisational

A major change occurred in mid-2017 with the retirement of Lynette Wiebusch as LCA Pastoral Care Nursing Coordinator for health reasons. She had served in the role for 20 years. The LNAA Parish Nurse subcommittee appointed Angela Uhrhane as Pastoral Care Nursing coordinator and Pr Rob Weibusch as Pastoral Care Nursing Ministry Manager.

RISKS

The number of active Pastoral Care Nurses has declined in the past two years as older nurses retired. Because this ministry is still comparatively new, it is still not widely understood. There have been a number of nurses qualified and willing to serve in this role, but their congregations have been reluctant to appoint them	Promotion of the Pastoral Care Nurse ministry continues.
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ALIGNMENT TO LCA STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2013–2018

Grow as God's People

- Introduction to Pastoral Care Nursing course now available via distance education
- Pastoral Care/Parish Nurse seminars held approximately annually
- 'Pastoral Health Care Workers' recognition for nurses who have relinquished their nursing registration and people are not nurses, but whose background is in a health-related profession.

Go as God's People

- Introduction to Pastoral Care Nursing courses presented in Goroka, PNG in 2013 and 2014. To be presented in Madang at a time to be determined by
- Parish Nurse study tour participation through the Lutheran Parish Nurses International (LPNI) organisation.
- Study tour are being planned for Canada (2018), Singapore (2019) and Alice Springs (2020).

COOPERATING LCA BOARDS AND AGENCIES

Board for Lay Ministry	Provided information to BLM staff re Parish Nursing.
Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia	LNAA provided funding and support to the Pastoral Care/Parish Nursing initiatives and promotion
LCA Mission International	Provided support to enable courses to be presented in PNG and has made provision to support the projected course in Madang