

Newsletter

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In Memory of Bruce Forrest

“A fine, fine person - one of the very best. He was a dedicated grass-roots worker who never asked for recognition, but always deserved it in truckloads!”

by Alison Kincaid

It was a feeling of great sadness and sense of ‘what a loss’ that I experienced when I heard that Bruce had died suddenly at home on May 27th 2015.

Since then I have had many conversations with, and messages from people working in our sector about Bruce’s contribution to Sexual Health and Aboriginal Health and the two put together. He mentored a lot of people and was a very positive influence in many lives, an advocate extraordinaire.

David Plummer remembers Bruce as “a fine, fine person - one of the very best. He was a dedicated grass-roots worker who never asked for recognition, but always deserved it in truckloads!”

Bruce worked in partnership with David along with Victor Tawil, and others setting up the Indigenous Sexual Health Education Project, this project was a baby of the Sexual Health workers on the NSW South Coast and involved producing a kit and taking it state-wide across all the areas training Aboriginal Health Workers in Sexual Health. Bruce came to work alongside me in Greater Murray Area Health Service in April 1999, being poached from Southern Area Health Service by Dalton Dupuy our HIV/AIDS Coordinator Manager and worked in the newly created position of Aboriginal Sexual Health CNC.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that the next page of the memorial for Bruce Forrest contains an image of a deceased person

Bruce's energy was legendary, he set about making himself known throughout all the communities in the area, cooking many a BBQ, talking to community members and all the time educating and informing and gaining insight into the local issues.

He developed Health Promotion resources including making videos on keeping safe and feeling good about your sexual health for his community. He did some fantastic work with programs and screening in our Wagga Juvenile Justice Centre. Bruce was also one of the key people who secured the funding and development of Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service.

Always a cheerful man, tall in stature and full of largesse and kindness, he was often sharing something that he had with everyone, my memories of him bringing into the centre boxes full of freshly picked asparagus make my mouth water still. Bruce worked with us until mid-2007, it was time for him to move on and he left for a Sexual Health nurse/coordinator role in The Tiwi Islands, I ran into him a couple of times after that and he was full of stories of his amazing time spent up there on Bathurst and the other Islands. His questioning about screening practices for Trichomonas in men led to research and with the Introduction of PCR testing, changed practices for screening men in NT.

He returned to his home town Bendigo for family reasons for a time and then headed north again to commence Sexual Health nursing in the Torres Strait Islands. I understand he then returned to Bendigo to work as the Aboriginal Liaison officer at Bendigo Home and Hospital.

Thank you for joining me in acknowledging Bruce's considerable contribution to Aboriginal Health and Sexual Health and extend sympathy to his family and friends. May he rest in peace after a life of work here on earth.

Alison Kincaid, CNC Sexual Health Murrumbidgee and Southern NSW Local Health Districts



On the road again...

National HIV Nursing Sub-Branch Exciting Proposal!

A proposal is in development with the ASHNA executive to establish an Australasian HIV Sub-Branch



There have long been discussions from east to west about establishing an HIV Sub-Branch

Why do we need a sub branch?

We know there is amazing work in and around HIV being done by nurses! And it would be great to do some sharing of our work and potentially avoid re-inventing the HIV nursing wheel.

WA has an HIV Nursing & Allied Health Group which includes maternity, paediatric and general adult health services. There are similar such groups in other states. We are all faced with similar issues and challenges such as those relating to workforce development, meeting KPI's, working in small teams or in isolated roles.

Some of us get to meet up perhaps once a year but I think we could and should do more to develop and promote a coordinated HIV Nursing Network.

If you are interested in developing or joining the sub branch contact me:

Samantha Libertino

HIV Clinical Nurse Consultant, Fiona Stanley Hospital, WA

Sam.Libertino@health.wa.gov.au

Spotlight on domestic and family violence

I was fortunate to see Rosie Batty, Australian of the Year, speak at the NSW Nurses Association Professional Day. I was moved and inspired by hearing her story and witnessing the strength and activism that has come from her personal tragedy.

Many of you will have heard Rosie Batty's story. Last year her son Luke was murdered by his own father at cricket practice. It was a horrifying event that captured the attention of the entire nation. Soon after, Rosie spoke passionately about the need to address family violence. Since then she has made it her mission to lift the burden from victims and make family violence every Australian's business.

In Rosie's words *"Together we will give victims a voice and demand our leaders act. We will stand with the victims of family violence so that they are supported in the community and have a powerful voice in the corridors of power. That's my mission – but I can't do it alone. Please stand beside me and every woman and child who experiences family violence."*

Join the **Never Alone** campaign neveralone.com.au



Another fabulous resource for education and training on domestic and family violence (DFV) is ACON Another Closet video **Tales from the Other Side**

Tales from the Other Side presents accessible and contemporary stories that reflect some of the many faces of DFV experienced by LGBTI people. The video presents stories of survival from those who have experienced domestic or family violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) communities, challenges myths about DFV in LGBTI relationships, and identifies sources of support (formal and informal) accessed by interviewees. The video also gives practical advice for support services.

The video is 7.5 minutes and is available online at the ACON website, YouTube Channel and the Another Closet website anothercloset.com.au

Donna Tilley
CNC Sexual and Women's Health Sydney Local Health District

A Testing Month in the ACT!



Aim: To increase HIV and STI screening in the ACT

Background: At a meeting of HIV stakeholders in August 2014, it was proposed that an HIV/STI Testing Month be held in the ACT for the month of November 2014. This initiative was an attempt to raise awareness of the ongoing challenge posed by HIV and STI's in the ACT, as well as to raise awareness of the benefits of testing for health care providers, populations at risk and the wider sexually active population.

The proposed Testing Month was launched at Fairday (Canberra's GLBTI fun/fair day at the ACT AIDS Council) on 1 November 2014 and continued on to World AIDS Day, 1 December 2014. ACT Medicare Local and ACT Health endorsed the National Ending HIV campaign message and agreed to working with the AIDS Action Council on localising materials to be produced.

Objectives:

- To encourage gay/bisexual men and other MSM to increase regular HIV and other STI screening to identify as yet unknown HIV cases
- To increase opportunities for people to access appropriate and comprehensive HIV and STI screening
- To increase capacity for clinicians to provide HIV and STI screening to key population groups

A Testing Month in the ACT!...

People from the following population groups were identified as a priority for testing during ACT Testing Month:

- Gay and bisexual men (MSM)
- People living with HIV
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- People who travel
- People who inject drugs (PWID)
- Sex Workers
- People who are from, and/or whose partners are from, high HIV prevalence countries

Outreach Testing Activities: Outreach testing venues included the ACT AIDS Council, Champions (a sex on premises venue for men) and suburban pharmacies. The regular monthly after hours M Clinic at Canberra Sexual Health Centre was held weekly. Outreach was also held at Headspace (National Youth Mental Health Foundation) and was well attended by young people.

What did we achieve?:

- The majority of people tested were MSM
- 65% of people who were tested were new clients to the service, and of these 20% had never had an STI check before
- 30% of those tested had not had an STI check in the previous 12 months and 44% of participants were aged between 21 – 30 years
- An unexpected benefit of testing month was the opportunity to work and build capacity with other organisations such as the ACT Hepatitis Council and Headspace

GP & other Health Care Worker Education Sessions:

- 45 minutes education sessions on STIs and HIV by sexual health nurses
- 38 doctors, 19 nurses, and 1 dietician from 5 General Practices and the Alexander Maconochie Correctional Centre (Canberra's gaol)
- Doctors verbalised the difficulty they have in offering STI/BBV screening in a GP setting when consultations are not related to sexual or reproductive health.
- The travel doctors found the information useful and will add information to travel kits on the importance of safe sex, safe tattooing and medical treatment overseas and testing on return from overseas travel.

Feedback survey: Positive response from organisations and stakeholders about Testing Month with some feedback suggesting it should be repeated in 2015. All involved have agreed it was a success!

Maudie Todkill RNL2
Canberra Sexual Health Centre

Enhancing the Role of Primary Healthcare Care Nurses in Sexual Health

The NSW STI Programs Unit (STIPU) in partnership with a number of professional stakeholders (APNA, ASHHNA, ASHM and Family Planning), conducted a survey in 2012 of Primary Health Care Nurses (PHCN) to ascertain their experiences in sexual health within the context of general practice. The survey responses highlighted a significant interest in sexual health.

Information from the survey contributed to the development of the **Sexual Health Competency Standards for PHCN and Sexual Health Clinical Placements for Primary Health Care Nurses – NSW.**

New South Wales Sexually Transmissible Infections
stipu.nsw.gov.au



In August 2014 a collaborative project between STIPU, Eastern Sydney Medicare Local (ESML), and Sydney Sexual Health Centre (SSHC) was developed in the form of a pilot clinical placement program.

The pilot program for PHCN was to target only those employed at a GP practice within the Eastern Sydney catchment area starting in January 2015 for six months.

The placement aims were to:

- enhance the skills and knowledge of the PHCN in HIV and STI testing and contact tracing
- increase awareness of the PHCN of appropriate and up-to-date STI management
- develop links and partnerships between the PHCN and PFSHS

In total, 5 PHCN attend a SSHC placement. Each of the nurses were asked to complete a pre-placement survey, immediate post-placement survey and a survey three months after having completed the placement. The survey responses are currently being compiled so watch this space.

Anecdotal feedback has been very positive. Informal discussions with PHCNs indicated a number of workplace barriers that may impact on the nurses' ability to make change within the practice setting.

Promoting clinical placements within PFSHS for PHCN is an important step towards building partnerships and communication networks between sexual health services and general practice.

Cherie Desreaux CNE Sydney Sexual Health Centre

ASHHNA - more than you might imagine

Have you ever wondered what ASHHNA does behind the scenes, it is more than you might imagine...

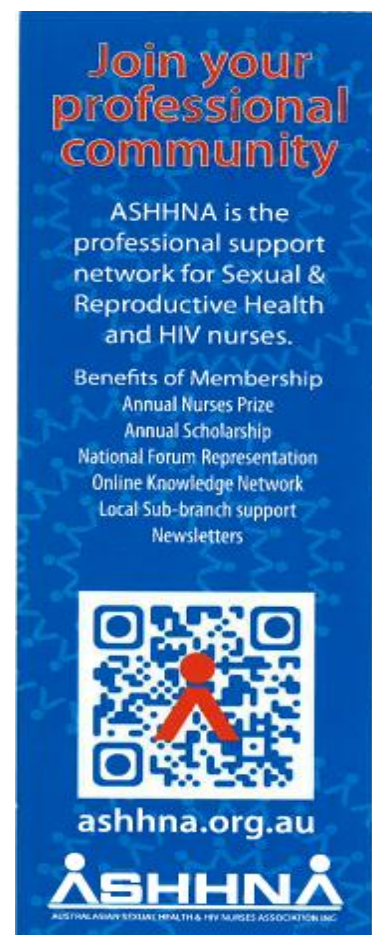
National Committee Representation

ASHHNA represents Sexual Health, HIV and Reproductive Health Nursing at a national level on the following committees:

- Australasian Sexual Health Alliance (ASHA)
- ASHM STI Clinical Oversight Committee
- ASHM HIV Clinical Oversight Committee
- ASHM National HIV Standards, Training and Accreditation Committee
- Coalition Of National Nursing Organisations (CoNNo)
- ASHM HIV Conference Committee
- ASHA Sexual Health Conference Committee
- ANZANAC (Australian & New Zealand Association of Nurses in AIDS Care; a Special Interest Group of the ANMF (Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation))

But wait, there's more...

- Feedback and endorsement: various requests are made of ASHHNA to endorse and provide comment on educational activities and clinical guidelines relevant to nursing in the sector
- Awards a nurses prize for Best Poster at the ASHA conference
- Currently developing a proposal to award an annual 'Nurse Innovator' prize




Join your professional community

ASHHNA is the professional support network for Sexual & Reproductive Health and HIV nurses.

Benefits of Membership

- Annual Nurses Prize
- Annual Scholarship
- National Forum Representation
- Online Knowledge Network
- Local Sub-branch support
- Newsletters



ashhna.org.au

ASHHNA
AUSTRALASIAN SEXUAL HEALTH & HIV NURSES ASSOCIATION INC.

ASHHNA Membership benefits

- ASHHNA nursing scholarship -up to \$3000 annually
- Access to the Knowledge Network – email list, website and blog posts
- Free ASHHNA newsletter
- Free ASHM affiliate membership

ASHM Affiliate benefits

- Discount conference and course registration
- individually tailored email alerts to keep you updated on important sector news
- close sector relationships with ASHM members and other organisational members
- the opportunity to be involved in, and influence policy in the sector through contribution to policy submissions and regular communication from ASHM's CEO about policy changes in areas that affect and concern you

So Many Benefits! Tell Your Friends!

2015 Scholarship recipients

ASHHNA is pleased to announce the following nurses as recipients of this years **ASHHNA Carol Martin Professional Development Scholarship**



Belinda Hengel

Currently working part time to allow time to complete her PhD, the scholarship has allowed her to attend the ISSTDR conference in Brisbane, and take learnings from this which will impact her future research directions.

Nassim Nankumbi

Funding for the Family Planning NSW Reproductive and Sexual Health Clinical Accreditation Program (RSH-CAP).

Laura Cunningham

Funding for her post graduate diploma of Public Health to enable her to critically evaluate public health issues and public health information.

Keep a look out in the next edition of the newsletter for the scholarship recipient reports!



**invites all nurses to the
Annual General Meeting
and breakfast.**

**This years AGM features
guest speaker**

Belinda Hengel, Strive Coordinator,
Apunipima Cape York Health Council

**'Improving STI testing uptake among
young people in remote Aboriginal &
Torres Strait Islander communities.'**

**Wednesday 16th September
7:15-8:45am**

Rydges South Bank

**Conference Room - Rooftop South
RSVP - ashhnanurses@gmail.com**