

Included in this issue:

- peer-reviewed articles of interest
- links to reports and opinion pieces
- events and updates

Articles of interest

Developing the Australian Midwifery Workplace Culture instrument

Good workplace culture is critical within all health care settings and central to productivity, staff morale and job satisfaction. This article describes a three-stage instrument development, based on the Culture of Care Barometer, the validation process, and a pilot test of the draft instrument to improve the culture for maternity services in New South Wales.

The instrument has three distinct domains: relationship with managers, empowerment and collegiality. It will be used to understand dimensions of the culture, and for midwifery managers to highlight problem areas, to explore staff responses to practice innovation or changes in the workplace.

[Find out more](#)

Primary health care policy and vision for community pharmacy and pharmacists in Australia

Community pharmacists' roles have evolved over the years and this article suggests that pharmacy services could be extended further to enhance integration within primary care.

The [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Pharmacists in 2023](#) report envisages pharmacists practicing to full scope, driving greater efficiencies in the health system.

The 7th Community Pharmacy Agreement together with the Australian Government *Primary Health Care 10-Year Plan*,

released in 2019, will largely shape the practice and viability of community pharmacy in the future.

[Find out more](#)

How COVID-19 has pushed us into a medical education revolution

The need to adapt rapidly has prompted many innovative changes that will ultimately have long-term benefits for medical education in Australia and New Zealand.

This article highlights ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has changed medical education, including online delivery for pre-clinical years, transition to a more learner-centred teaching approach, and has triggered curricula change. Changes to medical curricula will better support the medical workforce of the future and will increase skills such as adaptive thinking, technological literacy, complex problem solving, critical thinking, leadership, reflective practice, empathy and working in interprofessional teams.

[Find out more](#)

“We’re very much part of the team here”: A culture of respect for Indigenous health workforce transforms Indigenous health care

Improving health outcomes through cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a vital challenge for the health sector. This article shares experiences from 24 hospital staff and five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients from two cancer services and recommends improvements for better patient health outcomes.

Eight themes were identified: strong executive leadership, a proactive employment strategy, the Indigenous Health Unit, the Indigenous Liaison Officer, multidisciplinary team inclusion, professional development, work environment and a culture of respect.

[Find out more](#)

Spatial inequities of mental health nurses in rural and remote Australia

Despite an increased burden from mental health conditions, access to services in rural and remote communities is limited. This study examines the spatial availability of mental health nurses across Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Australia and identifies gaps in mental health service delivery capacity.

About 35% of all LGAs in Australia have zero FTE for mental health nurses, 46% of these being remote and very remote areas. While there has been an increase in mental health professionals over the last decade, the maldistribution of the workforce has persisted.

Three broad strategies have been proposed: improving supply and data information systems, revisiting task-shifting strategies, retraining the existing health workforce to develop skills necessary for mental health care, and incorporating mental health services within expanding innovative delivery models.

[Find out more](#)

What works, why and how? A scoping review and logic model of rural clinical placements for allied health students

This scoping review and thematic synthesis of the literature uses program logic to identify and describe the contexts, mechanisms and outcomes of successful models of rural clinical placements for allied health students.

18 articles were included in the final synthesis and Australian papers dominated the evidence base. The study identified the factors that can be manipulated to ensure more successful models of allied health rural clinical placements and provides an evidence-based framework for improved planning and evaluation.

[Find out more](#)

Events

The National Nursing Forum

18-20 August 2021

Canberra

[Find out more](#)

International Conference on Dentistry, Dental Hygiene Education and Oral Health

3-4 December 2020

Sydney

[Find out more](#)

7th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium

24-25 May 2021

Alice Springs

[Find out more](#)

Occupational Therapy Australia 29th National Conference and Exhibition

23-35 June 2021

Cairns

[Find out more](#)

Food for thought

Strategic Health Workforce Planning Framework

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/strategic-direction/plans/health-workforce-strategy/strategic-health-workforce-planning-framework>

National Digital Health Workforce and Education Roadmap

<https://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/about-the-agency/workforce-and-education>

Burnout in healthcare staff is common – and can make empathizing with patients difficult

<https://theconversation.com/burnout-in-healthcare-staff-is-common-and-can-make-empathising-with-patients-difficult-145862>

A short history of vaccination campaigns in Australia and what we might expect with COVID-19

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2020-09-22/vaccine-history-coronavirus-smallpox-spanish-flu/12673832>

First Nations peoples leading the way in COVID-19 pandemic planning, response and management

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2020/213/4/first-nations-peoples-leading-way-covid-19-pandemic-planning-response-and>

Contact

We welcome your comments and contributions. Please contact us at

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