Australian first for Gympie nurse practitioner

A Gympie Hospital nurse practitioner is the first Australian to receive a prestigious international fellowship.

Daniel O’Neill has been selected as a 2015 Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP).

AANP Fellows are selected based on outstanding contributions to clinical practice, research, education or policy.

Mr O’Neill said the AANP was in its 15th anniversary of the Fellows program, with the first class of Fellows exemplifying outstanding leadership being inducted in 2000.

He said each succeeding year AANP has selected outstanding leaders whose contributions have shaped practice, education, research or health policy.

“The selected who have become fellows have made a significant difference to health care and to the nurse practitioner role which will continue to expand,” Mr O’Neill said.

“It’s a huge achievement to be selected for this this. It’s an honour to be recognised in this way for my work and acknowledged as an expert in my field.

“As a Fellow of the AANP my role will be to assist in the advancement of nurse practitioners and the high-quality health care they deliver.”

Mr O’Neill is Gympie Hospital’s first nurse practitioner.

He has extensive emergency experience in both civilian and military practice having worked in various large regional centres including the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Port Macquarie Base Hospital, Royal Flying Doctors Service, and large teaching hospitals in the United Kingdom.

Mr O’Neill said the selection for fellowship was particularly special considering Australia’s relatively short history of nurse practitioners in the workforce.

“I began working as emergency nurse practitioner position at Gympie last September. It has been a wonderful experience setting up the new nurse practitioner service.

“It has also been great to be part of the team providing this expanded service to the community.”
“I’m given a lot of exposure to a variety of cases and you can really see the difference that the nurse practitioner role has made in the emergency department.

Mr O’Neill will be inducted as a Fellow at the AANP’s 30th national conference in New Orleans in June.

What is a nurse practitioner?

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse educated to a master’s degree level and authorised to function autonomously and collaboratively in an advanced and extended clinical role.

The nurse practitioner role includes assessment and management of clients using nursing knowledge and skills and may include the direct referral of patients to other health care professionals, prescribing medications and ordering diagnostic investigations.

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