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EDITORIAL

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Welcome to the third issue of AJAN online. This issue brings together nursing research from both within and outside Australia, adding to the body of nursing knowledge and aimed at improving nursing care. The papers cover a broad range of interests that capture the diversity of nursing and the breadth of curiosity of nurse researchers as they strive to question, challenge and put forward propositions to enhance nursing and nursing care.

How do newly graduated nurses develop their knowledge and skill once they leave the university environment and enter the workforce? The study by McKenna and Newton explores this issue and raises important questions about the graduate year and how it is structured and its impact on the knowledge and skill development and socialisation of newly graduated nurses into the workplace; essential reading for nurse managers and hospital administrators.

The transition experience of newly graduated nurses from the university environment to the workplace can make the difference between whether the graduate remains long term in the nursing workforce and whether they leave. Transition support programs have been put forward as one way of improving the experience of the newly graduated nurse. In the study by Evans et al, the strengths and weaknesses of transition support programs are investigated. In an era of nurse shortage and a focus on nurse retention,

the study findings make an important contribution to this field of study, particularly for nurse educators, nurse managers and health facilities.

Challenging current practice and seeking an evidence base for care is the underlying theme of the paper by Webster et al who conducted a randomised controlled trial to compare the rate of humidifier acquired pneumonia between patients in whom humidifier circuitry as changed every three days or every seven days. This study is a good example of the potential impact nursing research can have on health care and health care costs.

Webster and Harrison's study makes an important contribution to mental health care for young people. Their study explored how young people experience the onset of mental health problems and investigated their initial interaction with the health system, using their findings to construct a model of care that nurses and other health professionals can use to provide appropriate interventions.

Socially desirable responding can confound research results by creating false relationships or obscuring relationships between variables. Van de Mortel conducted a review to report on the influence of socially desirable responding on study outcomes and the proportion that used statistical methods to control for social desirability response bias. This paper has an important message for nurse researchers.

Fisher and Brumley report on the use of the Spiritual Health and Life Orientation Measure (SHALOM) scale when investigating the spiritual wellbeing of nurses and carers providing palliative care and come up with some interesting results. Too often, the impact of providing nursing care on the wellbeing of those providing the care is overlooked.

Communication skills have a significant impact on the effectiveness of nursing care. As part of a larger Language in the Workplace project based in New Zealand, Major and Holmes examined the communication strategies used by nurses in describing health care procedures to patients in order to identify the characteristics of effective nurse to patient communication in real life interaction using discourse analysis within a sociolinguistic framework. Their results indicate there is much more to be discovered about the ways in which nurses and patients communicate, illustrated by the way in which they negotiate the description of health care procedures.

Continuing the communication theme, Ozer and Akyil examined the effect the provision of information about the physical and technical environment of the intensive care unit had on the level of discomfort patients felt during their stay in the ICU. Their results are a useful indicator for nurses about the value of providing information to patients to improve their experience of health care.

In another study based in the intensive care unit, Yang looked at what families in Korea need to assist them to cope with the traumatic event of having a family member admitted to the ICU. Yang's results suggest that the needs of Korean families are similar to those of families in Australia.

Diabetes is fast becoming one of the most prevalent lifestyle diseases worldwide. In the study by Akca

and Cinar, the role nurses can play in preventing one chronic complication of diabetes, diabetes foot ulcer, is highlighted. The study demonstrates that people without diabetic foot ulcer have a better psychological adjustment to their disease than people with diabetic foot ulcer and suggests that nurses can make a difference in the outcome of this disease.

The introduction of community nursing care is a new phenomenon in Turkey. In an interesting study, Kisa explored the attitude of nurses to the provision of home health care and found some unexpected differences between nurses educated at a Bachelor degree level and those educated at certificate level, and between nurses with different years of experience.

In a new section for AJAN, 'Point of View', Nazareth et al discuss the advantages of using a nurse practitioner model of care in increasing access to treatment for people with chronic hepatitis while Ward and Verinder use the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion to demonstrate how nurses can address alcohol misuse among young people.

Here at AJAN we are interested in your feedback on the papers presented. There is now a section on the AJAN website for your feedback or any comments you would like forwarded to the authors. There is also a discussion question each month based on some of the papers in the current issue. Responses to the discussion question are published on the website.