

PSN NEWS

Newsletter of the NSW Pregnancy
and Newborn Services Network

JULY 2016 ISSUE 6

- 1 | PAL Survey
- 2 | PSN Canberra meeting
- 2 | PSANZ 2016 Congress
- 3 | POD Study
- 3 | New Publication
- 4 | Dubbo site visit
- 5 | Accolade for PSN
- 5 | CEC workshop
- 6 | Vale Jo Kent Biggs
- 7-8 | Coming Events
- 9 | PSN Moving

WELCOME TO THE SIXTH EDITION OF PSN NEWS

We hope that this regular newsletter provides you with useful information about the work of PSN and some interesting news and updates.

This edition will update you on some of our core Midwifery and Obstetrics business within NSW LHD's and ACT and our recent attendance at the 2016 PSANZ congress. We will also introduce and explain about our PAL user survey and how to access this.

For more information about PSN staff and our current projects visit: <http://www.psn.org.au>



NEW PAL USER SURVEY

We want to hear from you!

The time has come to evaluate the service PSN offers through the Perinatal Advice Line (PAL).

The PAL service has been re-established for over 2 years now, and we hope to enhance the experience and support we offer to our clinical colleagues across NSW and the ACT. The PAL user survey provides an opportunity for PAL to improve on the service it currently offers.

Survey invitations were distributed to Registrars involved in a PAL call during the month of June, and also through the Clinical Midwifery Consultant (CMC) network. Responses so far have been candid, informative and thought provoking and will be incorporated into the SCHN-PAL quality reporting framework.

More feedback is essential: PSN is inviting all clinicians who have been involved in a PAL call to complete the short survey (1-3 minutes) on our website. We are interested in your views on how helpful or effective you felt the call was, and all responses are de-identified and confidential.

The PAL user survey will be available on our website, follow the prompts. Your participation is greatly appreciate.

For more information please contact Mel Lewis on melanie.lewis@psn.health.nsw.gov.au



Canberra Meeting



Wednesday, 22nd April PSN was invited to Canberra to participate in a day of education and meetings.

Five of the PSN staff including the Operational Manager, CNC, CMC and both the Obstetric and Neonatal Advisors attended.

It gave PSN a chance to give an update on PAL and to discuss with the Canberra clinicians some of the maternal and neonatal cases that had involved their hospital.

Alison Goodfellow leading the discussion on the case reviews

PSN also participated in the area Critical Care Task Force - Regional Intensive Care Workshop which included staff from the LHDs that feed into Canberra such as Southern NSW LHD and hospitals within the Canberra region which discussed neonatal beds planning and touched on obstetric bed planning.

PSN then met with the senior maternity and neonatal clinicians discussing support and issues around bed planning and transfers.



A number of PSN representatives attended PSANZ 20th Annual Congress in May 22-25th in Townsville. This was the first time that PSANZ had been held in tropical Queensland and we all enjoyed the welcome reprieve from the wet NSW weather.

Overseas and local speakers presented their cutting edge research addressing important aspects of perinatal health. PSN staff had three posters presentations accepted.

- The NSW Perinatal advice line (PAL) – A review of the first two years in operation
- Influence of Location of birth on NICU admission rates and survival of infants born between 22 and 25 weeks gestation (written in partnership with UNSW, UOW, ANU and RHW)
- Maternal Thromboembolism Risk Assessment (written in partnership with Westmead Hospital)



Alison Goodfellow; Jenny Elliott; Natasha Donnelly and Helen Cooke attended the welcome reception evening where the dress code and ability to have the welcome drinks was tropical shirt (provided with registration). Creative use of the shirt as a headdress was optional.



PSN Students at PSANZ 2016 Congress

By Lynn Sinclair & Robert Guarun

Research question: Can we improve parents' understanding of extremely Preterm infant Outcomes Data? (POD study)



UNSW medical student **Emma Gorman** presented the results from Phase 1 of the study. In focus groups, parents who had experienced extremely preterm birth were asked to evaluate different representations of hypothetical outcomes and invited to share their thoughts about and experiences of the consultation process.



UNSW medical student **Waseem Buksh** presented an introduction to Phase 2 at the IMPACT Network Clinical Trials Workshop. Findings from Phase 1 are being used to inform the development of an online questionnaire. Parents across Australia and New Zealand will be invited to participate.

New Publication – Knowledge and Learning in Speciality Practice – by Lynn Sinclair



The NSW Neonatal Clinical Nurse Consultants Network has published the first paper from the Nursing Knowledge and Outcomes of Neonatal Nursing Practice study. We send a big thank you to all the neonatal nurses who participated in our study. Many thanks also go to Dr Sharon Laing for her significant contribution to this work.

See link to the paper in the Journal of Neonatal Nursing [http://www.journalofneonatalnursing.com/article/S1355-1841\(16\)30043-6/abstract](http://www.journalofneonatalnursing.com/article/S1355-1841(16)30043-6/abstract)

Dubbo Visit – D Challis and H Cooke



In early May Dr Danny Challis and Helen Cooke paid a visit to Dubbo for a couple of days. First stop was the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) situated beside the Dubbo Airport. It was a great opportunity to meet some of the staff that often have dealings with PSN through the PAL line. The RFDS midwives often ring for advice and support regarding maternal transfers and it was good to be able to put faces to names and talk about the role of PAL and the support provided by the PAL Obstetricians, explaining exactly how the system works. Equally, it was important for us to hear some of the issues they face with weather and access for remote and rural transfers. We were given a guided tour of the RFDS base and the opportunity to explore the airplane used for transfers.

Dubbo Maternity Unit

The maternity unit in Dubbo is brand new and provides women with a beautiful space for birthing, antenatal and postnatal care. The birthing rooms are spacious and well equipped particularly, the new birthing pool. Standing by the pool with Danny is Jayne Lawrence the Midwifery Unit Manager at Dubbo. As you walk down the corridor of the maternity unit the walls are adorned with photos of the local scenery, placed there as a feature of inclusion and welcome to the women of the Local Health District. The district stretches west to Bourke, north to Coonamble and encompassing Cowra and West Wyalong to the south. Each town is featured in the photos, a small memento of home for women who need to be away from friends and family for extended periods of time during **their pregnancy**. The highlight of our visit was the opportunity to meet with the clinicians and share in the perinatal meeting that focused on some of the more distinct local issues they face on a regular basis. Dinner at the pub was a great way to end our visit. Thank you to everyone in Dubbo for your hospitality and good will, we hope to visit again soon.





Accolade for PSN

Thanks to the work of Dr Robert Guaran and Dr Lynn Sinclair, PSN has been awarded status as a Teaching and Research Unit of the University of NSW.

Clinical Excellence Commission - Deteriorating Patient Education Workshop held on 12 May 2016

PSN was invited to attend the CEC Deteriorating Patient Education Workshop held on 12 May 2016 to showcase the work maternity was achieving with FONT, having an emphasis on the work FONT had achieved incorporating Between the Flags into our education. The CEC were interested in how FONT used clinicians as patients in our scenario drills and asked if we would be able to do a demonstration at the workshop. They encouraged us to make the scenario a little light hearted as often our scenarios do show a humorous side and much can be learnt if humour is used. We engaged the help of some of the CEC staff, Paul Hudson, Malcolm Green and Lisa Coombes to be part of the roleplay and you can see by the photo how much fun we all had.



The PPH drill in the scenario demonstrated both good and bad communication and the real life frustrations clinicians often have when they feel no one is listening. The successful workshop demonstrated that FONT is well on track as a state wide education program and follows closely with the work being done across the State for other disciplines. PSN would like to thank the CEC for inviting us to the workshop and offering the opportunity to showcase FONT to the rest of the State.

Vale Joanna Mary Bridget Kent Biggs (JKB)
9th December 1955 – 2nd June 2016



Jo Kent Biggs passed away unexpectedly following her return home after enjoying a European vacation with friends. Jo was passionate about nursing and midwifery in particular about advancing nursing and midwifery as a profession and supporting newly graduate nurses and midwives in their transition to the workplace.

Jo commenced her general training at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane in 1973. She followed this by completing her midwifery training at Queen Victoria Hospital, Launceston, Tasmania in 1978 and her neonatal training at RPA, Sydney.

Jo had many career paths; she worked in United Arab Emirates as a midwife, on a Pearl Luger off the coast of the Northern Territory as a cook, and at the Kings School, Sydney as a school nurse but always came back to her first love babies and NICU.

Jo was one of the first nurses to be employed as a neonatal retrieval nurse when the NSW NETS was established in 1993 and she went on to be the Nurse Manager for NETS in 1995 when the SCH NETS and CHW NETS became one and moved to Westmead its current headquarters. During this time she also undertook her degree in nursing at UNE.

Jo resigned from NETS in 2000 then went on to work with Prof David Henderson-Smart as the Manager of PSN until 2005.

In recent years Jo first moved to the Blue Mountains and stepped away from management and back to the clinical area working in Westmead Hospital's NICU and then she moved to Newcastle and began working at JHHCH in the NICU as the Nurse Educator and as the Nurse Manager overseeing the Enrolled Nurse Program.

Jo was closely involved with the Australian Neonatal Nurses Association working as the association's secretary and then National President.

I first met Jo in what was then Baxter the NICU at Children's hospital at Camperdown in the 80's and we became firm friends that has lasted the years. She joined me and many friends cheering on the Australian one day cricket team at the SCG. Jo and I had many a great adventure both within Australia and overseas. Jo's other great passion was cooking and embracing the food from all the countries she visited during her extensive travels. I have been lucky enough to be the recipient of many a great meal cooked by Jo. She will be sadly missed by me and all who knew her.

Jenny Elliott

Operational Manager

PSN

Coming Events



“Building Strong Foundations”

The 3rd Annual NeoPaed Conference will be held on Friday, 2nd September 2016 at Luna Park.

Invited Speakers include Professor William Tarnow-Mordi, Professor Lex Doyle, and Professor Karen Simmer.

Topics will include:

- Delayed Cord Clamping
- Cerebral Palsy
- Neonatal Nutrition
- Neonatal sepsis and Neonatal Viral Infections
- Changing outcomes for extremely preterm children in the era of modern neonatal intensive care
- Outcomes of moderate and late preterm infants
- Resuscitation post ICORD 2016

An application form can be downloaded from the PSN website at www.psn.org.au

Held by University of Western Sydney, School of Nursing & Midwifery in association with the Australian College of Midwives

10-Waterview in Bicentennial Park

Bicentennial Drive, Bicentennial Park, (off Australia Avenue)

Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney NSW

9am-5pm each day 13 October 2016

<mailto:normalbirth2016@midwives.org.au>

The NLBC conference was founded by Professor Soo Downe from UCLAN and it has grown in reputation over the past 11 years. Every second year it leaves its lovely home in Grange-over-Sands in the English Lake District and goes to another country. For the first time this important conference will be held in Australia and hosted by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Western Sydney and the Australian College of Midwives.



The Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) Board of Directors invites you to Canberra in 2017.



The theme of this congress is *Policy & Controversy – from Research to Reality*

For more information about PSANZ please visit our new website at <https://www.psanz.com.au/>

Keep updated on the progress of the Canberra congress at [http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-
psanz/event-summary-c78e251dbede417ebc14c007c91e713a.aspx](http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-psanz/event-summary-c78e251dbede417ebc14c007c91e713a.aspx)

By President elect Lynn Sinclair

ACNN National Conference

22-24th September Rydges on Swantson
Melbourne

Key content areas

Respiratory
Neurology
Late preterm infants
Infant and family mental health
Ethics and leadership
Low resource and refugee settings
NIC-PREDICT and PER-FACT



For information regarding registration, contact our *Event Manager*

Nikki Abercrombie mobile: 0418 283 397 • email: acnn@abercrombiemanagement.com.au

PSN IS MOVING



MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

