

An Opportunity to Recreate the Art of Nursing

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Abstract

The Australian Public Healthcare system today is complex and fragmented. It is a three-tiered system comprising primary, secondary and tertiary care. The typical hospital structure is a complex web of clinical streams, supported by Allied Health and other administrative functions. The system has created clinical silos without considering how they work together to look after the patient holistically. There is a separation within the system of people with a disability, chronic or complex illness, aged care and social welfare.

Healthcare nursing is both an art and a science however, the time pressures on nurses have largely reduced their roles to being task driven. They may be mindful that health affects all members of families, that health and illness are family events and that the process and outcome of healthcare is influenced by family support but, they do not have the capacity within their roles to practice this art of nursing. More experienced nurses are feeling disenchanting and are leaving the profession. One ideal solution is to have a healthcare coach (nurse practitioner) who is available to the patient, for the patient; assists the patient in interpreting the system; understands what the doctor/specialist is looking for; supports communication between providers and patients and the ability to access a support network.

This role would provide a pathway for more experienced nurses, retain them in the profession and address many of the communication issues that arise for patients trying to navigate the complexity of the Australian Public Healthcare System

Biography:

Anne Crawford RN Div 1, Post Grad Midwifery, MPH, GAICD

- Experience: trauma (RMH)/rural hospitals; aged care; community alongside GPs.
- community health service boards
- medical professional; patient; caregiver.

Published articles:

- Healthcare Coaches Are Essential to Healing the Healthcare Industry
- How Kindness Can Make a Difference in Cancer Care

Conference Paper: ADGP National Aged Care Forum Nov 2006

- Successes and challenges for future program developments for general practitioners working in residential aged care

Published Author:

- Surviving Healthcare in Australia – Get the support you need
- The Case for Optimism: The Optimist's Voices 2nd Edition (Contributor)

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