

Strengthening the remote nurse workforce student placements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Presented by Renee Flynn

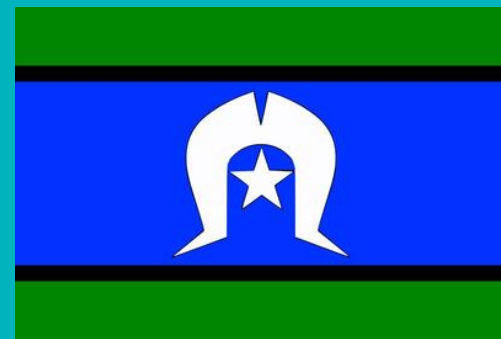
Clinical and Education Manager – Clinical Placement Program

On behalf of Lauren Doddo



Acknowledgement of Country

APNA recognises the traditional custodians of land and sea, on whose lands we work and live. We wish to pay our respects to all traditional owners and elders past, present and future.



Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association

APNA is the peak body and professional membership association for all nurses working outside of a hospital setting in Australia.



Aged
Care



Community
Health



General
Practice



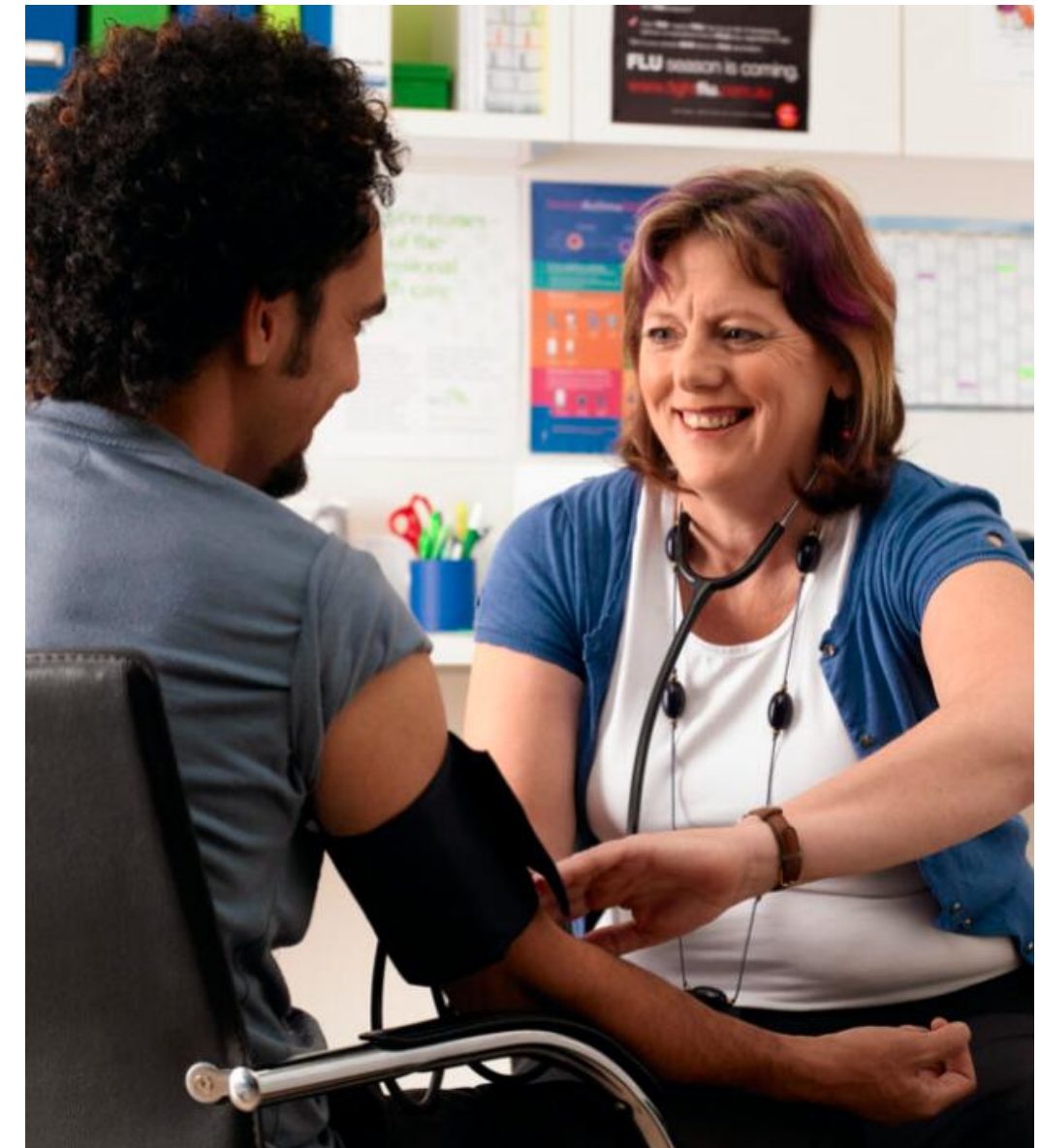
Correctional
Health



Schools



Other primary
health care



Undergraduate nurse clinical placement into Primary Health Care

In 2020 APNA started a clinical placement program into PHC, with recent funding from department to support processes and systems we have increased the scope of placements, including diversifying into rural and remote placements



Can't be what you can't see

- Barriers for Education Providers
- Barriers for host sites
- Curriculum for Bachelor of Nursing
 - Primary Health Care
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' history, culture and health



How do we strengthen the remote Nursing Workforce?

Let's dive into it.



Rural and remote placements

- Maningrida is in the Northern Territory, located approximately 500km east of Darwin in Arnhem Land
- Kintore is in the Northern Territory, situated roughly 530 km west of Alice Springs. Located near the Western Australia border
- Armidale and Inverell are in the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales



Mala'la Health Service Aboriginal Corporation (MHSAC)

- Provides culturally appropriate and comprehensive primary health care services to the people of Maningrida community and surrounding homelands under a community-control model.
- One student attended a four-week placement

Case study: Elise Sims

A nursing student's life-changing experience in remote Australia

'We learnt all that in books, but it's so different to witness it in real life and to put those things into practice.'

'We were treating both acute and chronic illness, and focusing on community involvement, patient centred care and really encouraging the individual to take their health into their own hands,' Elise says.



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Pintupi Homelands Health Service

- Pintupi clinic works with a range of organisations and its community to deliver care and promote health to those living within Kintore Community borders and beyond.
- Two students attended for a four-week placement
- During a 40-year celebration, the students were honoured to participate in traditional dancing, storytelling, body painting, performances, and late-night music—an immersive experience that showcased the culture on a larger scale.



Case study: Sheryl Canales Fitzmaruice

A nursing journey transformed by First Nations connection

“It was a life changing. Personally, it gave me more understanding and compassion about [First Nations people].” Sheryl shared.

“In a month, it gave me more confidence. I became adaptable and I feel connected to the people and the culture.”



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Armajun Armidale and Armajun Inverell

- Armajun aims to provide culturally appropriate Aboriginal health care services and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, well-being and good health with the support and participation of their communities
- Recently completed five primary health care placements through the partnership between Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECC PHN) and APNA.
- The program is designed to create culturally safe opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nursing students and strengthen the future workforce.



Case study: Chelsy Shearer

Creating culturally safe pathways through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nursing placements



“I would love to go back to Indigenous health and maybe going even more rurally — places where no healthcare is had.”

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Case study: Azalaya Benjamin (Laya) and Ella-Rose Yow Yeh (Ella)

Listening, belonging and lessons that don't leave you

“There’s a massive gap in health literacy and there are limited resources to educate.” – Laya

“Healthcare is so diverse. You can literally take it anywhere, and being in a rural setting is just as, if not more rewarding because you’re with community.” – Ella

“We got to learn direct knowledge, straight from an elder to our ears and that’s really profound as an Indigenous person,” – Laya



Scan QR to read their full story

APNA Case Study: Building the Future Remote Primary Health Care Workforce

Key Element	Placement Insight	Workforce Impact
Curriculum and PHC Exposure	Chronic disease, early childhood health, community-led care	Broader understanding of PHC beyond metropolitan settings
Cultural Safety	Learning through practice on Country with Aboriginal health services	Improved cultural competence and respectful care delivery
Student Support	APNA coordination, supervision, and preparation	Placement success despite logistical and compliance challenges
Visibility and Role Models	Working alongside remote and Aboriginal health professionals	Shift in career intent toward remote area nursing



To summarise

- Supporting Education providers
- Supporting Registered Nurse at host sites
- Utilise funding options
- Advocate for curriculum changes

Thank you.

Any questions?

