

Media Statement

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Three times the expertise

In an Australian first, the RPH Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Service (AHFCTS) has established a Nurse Practitioner Service, with three times the expertise.

The AHFCTS has become the first Australian Transplant and Mechanical Support Program to appoint not just one, but three Nurse Practitioners.

Helen Hayes, Niki Parle and Clare Wood, all embarked on the Nurse Practitioner “challenge” with the support of Royal Perth Hospital and the Department of Health, enrolling at Curtin University of Technology in the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) in 2004/2005.

The program of study included professional issues and legislation governing practice, pharmacology, diagnostics, leadership, research and a clinical internship completed under the direction of senior medical staff at the AHFCTS.

For all three of them, managing post graduate study has meant multi-tasking education, career, and family.

“Time has been shared between the work place, home and university, however in spite of the logistical stressors all three of us have thrived throughout our studies, finding the course both stimulating and challenging,” Nurse Practitioner Helen Hayes said.

Nurse Practitioner Niki Parle said the Nurse Practitioner Service will address the complex issues involved in treating patients with advanced heart failure.

“Our service aims to improve the disease treatment processes, target lifestyle factors and population groups associated with heart failure and improve the health settings for treatment and prevention of the disease,” Niki said.

Nurse Practitioner Clare Wood said as graduating nurse practitioners they have received an extensive education, a fact that will become more evident in time.

“Our university education has given us a capacity for critical thinking and adapting what we have already learnt throughout our nursing careers,” Clare said.

“We have had the opportunity to explore and develop many different aspects of practice related to our clinical nurse consultant role, and have learned much from our colleagues, establishing strong collaborative relationships with our peers and other members of our team.

“As nurse practitioners we have an extended scope of practice that will support the provision of comprehensive, quality patient care.”

“In essence we are now better equipped to make a difference.

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