

25 June 2008

DISTRICT NURSING WEEK 08 – CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

District Nursing Week (August 3 -9) is an opportunity for the community to recognise the essential nursing care provided by district nurses to thousands of people in their homes every day.

Dan Romanis, CEO of Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS), Melbourne's largest home nursing organisation, says that this year District Nursing Week will celebrate the huge diversity in district nursing.

"A quick snapshot of RDNS shows a world that is full of diversity. By that I mean the diversity of our nurses, the diversity of our clients, the diversity of the medical conditions we treat and the diversity of the environments in which we care for people," Mr Romanis explains.

"Our nurses come from all sorts of professional and personal backgrounds and range in age from young university graduates to those who have worked at RDNS for over 30 years.

"Our clients range from the very old and frail through to the very young. In addition, last year we cared for clients who originated from 149 different countries, who spoke 102 languages.

"We treat all manner of disease and illness, from providing simple insulin injections for diabetics to providing complex post-operative care," he says.

"On any given day, our nurses will deliver care to people living in vastly different living conditions: from those living in old stately homes through to people living in high-rise apartments and others battling homelessness.

"The world in which our nurses work is rich and hugely diverse and takes in the full spectrum of human and nursing experience," Mr Romanis says. "There are literally thousands of remarkable stories taking place each day in district nursing."

"And in the midst of it all, one constant remains: the commitment of our nurses to provide people with the best possible nursing care and helping them to achieve greater independence, more control and improved health.

"District Nursing Week is a chance to reflect on and celebrate the work of a remarkable group of nurses who are able to adapt and respond to the incredible diversity they face each day whilst at the same time providing the best nursing care available," Mr Romanis says.

About RDNS

RDNS is the largest home nursing service in Australia. An independent charity, RDNS operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year, from locations across Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula.

Services comprise general and specialised nursing including: aged care, cancer management, palliative care, continence management, cystic fibrosis care, medication management, diabetes management, haemophilia management, stomal therapy and wound care.

- 1,250 staff
- 7,000 - 8,000 people in RDNS' care at any one time
- 32,500 clients cared for in 2007
- 1.57 million client visits in 2007
- 538,000 hours of care in 2007

----- ENDS -----

Media contacts:

Dan Woods	0410 416 276
Kathryn Muratore	0488 901 003

www.rdns.com.au