

24 November 2008

For immediate release

District nursing report reveals demand and diversity

Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) has made the highest number of nursing visits to Melburnians since the charitable organisation began over 120 years ago.

RDNS' newly released 2008 Annual Report shows that the organisation made 1,608,257 visits to clients during the 2007-08 financial year*, the largest number of visits conducted in a single year since RDNS was established in 1885.

Other major statistics contained within the 2008 Annual Report show:

- 32,125 clients received care from RDNS during the 2007-08 period
- RDNS staff provided 558,646 hours of care to clients
- Staff travelled 9.2 million kilometres visiting clients during the year
- Public hospitals provided most referrals for RDNS' services – 38.8%

In releasing the report, CEO Dan Romanis emphasised the important role diversity plays throughout the organisation.

“Our clients are the embodiment of variety: we care for people across Melbourne drawn from every conceivable walk of life and possessing a vast spectrum of life experiences,” Mr Romanis said.

“We care for those who have lived in relative comfort to those who have battled at the margins; for those needing a little help to get their health back on track to those entering the last phase of their lives.”

Mr Romanis also highlighted the diversity of RDNS staff “who bring to their job a rich mix of professional training, experience, skill, know-how and insight.”

The report also highlighted the diverse cultural backgrounds of RDNS' clients, showing:

- RDNS' clients originated from 147 countries and speak 103 languages
- 32.5% of clients were born in non-English speaking countries
- An 11% increase in the use of on-site interpreters
- A 13% increase in the use of telephone interpreters

“The nature of our work, as highlighted in the Annual Report shows that, more than ever, RDNS is an organisation that encounters diversity at every turn. That is something we continue to celebrate and respond to, as we must,” Mr Romanis said.

** 'Visits' include face-to-face contacts with clients and 'client-related contacts' (activities undertaken on behalf of clients)*

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Media contacts: Dan Woods – 0410 416 276 Kathryn Muratore – 0488 901 003