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For immediate release

EXPANDED NURSING WORKFORCE BRINGS BENEFITS

Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) is set to expand its nursing workforce when it begins employing Division 2 nurses for the first time in its long history.

The first Division 2 recruits are due to commence with RDNS in May.

The move will mean that RDNS will be able to grow its pool of nursing staff to cater for the increasing demand for its services in the face of growing nurse shortages.

RDNS is the largest provider of home-based nursing in Victoria, with clients numbering over 30,000 and client visits over 1.5 million each year.

With recent changes to the educational preparation of Division 2 nurses and amendments to relevant legislation, RDNS is now able to offer suitable employment opportunities for Division 2 nurses.

Division 2 nurses at RDNS will be able to provide a broad range of the nursing care offered by the organisation, however many practices will still only be able to be provided by Division 1 nurses.

The assessment of clients, development of nursing care plans, and complex technical nursing care will remain the primary responsibility of Division 1 nurses.

Division 2 nurses starting with RDNS will undertake an extensive orientation program to enable them to confidently fulfil their role.

RDNS CEO Dan Romanis says that Division 2 nurses will add a vital new dimension to RDNS and will enable the organisation to care for extra clients.

“Last year we delivered the most client visits in our entire 123 year history. Demand is increasing constantly, so to be able to expand our workforce by employing Division 2 nurses is obviously going to help us to meet that demand,” he said.

“This will have a positive impact on our clients but also it will have a positive effect on our current staff. Simply put, it provides us with options that we haven’t had before.”

“Of course, whilst this initiative means that we have more capacity to care for the growing needs of our many clients, it also means new career opportunities for nurses who in the past have not been able to pursue a job with RDNS,” he explained.

“To those nurses I say, ‘Our doors are now open!’”

“This as a very good move that is going to have positive effects right across the board,” Mr Romanis said.

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