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For immediate release

HOME NURSING VITAL FOR HEALTH District Nursing Week 2009

District Nursing Week (August 2-8) is an opportunity for the community to recognise the essential nursing care provided by district nurses to people in their homes every day.

Dan Romanis, CEO of Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS), Australia's largest home nursing organisation, says that District Nursing Week rightly celebrates the huge contribution of district nurses to the community.

Last year, nurses from RDNS delivered 1,711,850 visits to 33,214 people throughout Greater Melbourne.

Highlighting the importance of district nursing, Dan Romanis says that RDNS' 1,000 nurses provide a huge range of general and specialised nursing care to over 7,000 people in their homes every day.

"Alongside the vital medical benefits, district nursing helps people to return home from hospital more quickly, to remain close to family and friends and to receive care in the place where they feel most safe and comfortable."

"In addition, their physical and mental recovery is often significantly improved by receiving care in a place that is secure and familiar."

"For the people we care for, it means greater independence, more choice and greater control in relation to their healthcare," he says.

Mr Romanis adds that home nursing helps to relieve some of the pressure that continues to impact on the health industry such as an ageing population, demand in the hospital system and people's preference to receive care at home.

"And in the midst of on-going change and increasing demand, one constant always remains: the commitment of our nurses to provide people with the best possible nursing care and to help them achieve greater health and independence," Mr Romanis says.

"District Nursing Week is a chance to celebrate the work of a remarkable group of people."

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