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For immediate release

PRAISE FOR NURSES ON SPECIAL DAY International Nurses Day 2009

International Nurses Day - Tuesday, 12th May - is a chance for the public to say "thank-you" and to give nurses everywhere well-deserved recognition.

International Nurses Day marks the birthday of Florence Nightingale – widely considered the founder of modern nursing. It is a day that celebrates the valuable contribution all nurses make to society.

Nightingale's work was also a major motivation for the establishment of Melbourne's Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) in 1885.

RDNS' 1,000 nurses provide vital nursing care to almost 30,000 Melburnians in their own homes each year, providing almost 1.6 millions visits in the process.

RDNS CEO Dan Romanis says nurses are heroes of the healthcare system and that International Nurses Day is an opportunity for the community to show their appreciation.

"One glance across the spectrum of healthcare services in our community shows us very clearly that at every turn, nurses are the constant source of care and support," he says.

"International Nurses Day is about saying 'thank you' to a group of people that really are the backbone of our healthcare system."

Mr Romanis says that district nursing is all about caring for clients in their own homes, where they are more comfortable and independent and have more choice.

"Without district nurses, many people would not be able to get the care they need in the place they need it and want it.

"RDNS cares for around 7,000 people every day and many depend on RDNS to avoid hospitalisation or having to move to a care facility," he says.

"International Nurses Day is an opportunity for all of us to say: thank you, we can't do without you."

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For interviews and/or photos of RDNS nurses and clients in your LGA contact:

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