



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

eNews Vol.7 Issue 2 February 2014

## CNF 21<sup>st</sup> BIENNIAL MEETING 2014 Historic constitutional changes to be decided

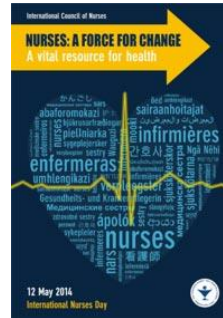
The 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Commonwealth Nurses Federation which will be held in London Friday 7 March will decide whether or not to endorse historic constitutional changes for the organisation. Among the changes to be debated are a name change to the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation and an expansion of membership categories. The CNF Board has been exploring the changes with members since the 20<sup>th</sup> CNF Biennial Meeting held in Malta in 2011. The CNF Board at that time proposed the changes they considered essential for the organisation to be more inclusive and to ensure its continued relevance and sustainability in a changing world. The Board left a long lead-time for consultation with members before voting on the changes. In relation to the name change, the CNF Board emphasised that the inclusion of 'midwives' in the title did not constitute an endorsement of midwifery as a separate profession to nursing.

The CNF is aware that in some Commonwealth countries, midwifery is a direct entry program, however in other Commonwealth countries a nursing qualification is a pre-requisite to undertaking a midwifery qualification. An underpinning value of the CNF is for countries to be self-determining in relation to this issue and for the CNF to be inclusive of all countries of the Commonwealth. The same philosophy of inclusiveness was also behind the recommendation of the CNF Board to expand membership categories. The new constitution is now available on the CNF website. The constitution includes a set of values which is a new addition to the constitution and sets out the values within which the CNF intends to function. The CNF Strategic Plan for 2014-2016 (see page 2 of the e-News) is also to be submitted for endorsement.

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Virtual International Day of the Midwife 5 May 2014

The Virtual International Day of the Midwife (VIDM) celebrates the International Day of the Midwife by bringing midwives, students, consumers and others interested in childbirth together using online media. A variety of events are presented every hour for 24 hours on the 5th of May 2014 via web-conferencing facilities. These include presentations about latest research or practice issues, informal or panel discussions, meetings or story-telling. The organising committee of the VIDM is calling for Expressions of Interest for presentations which focus on maternity care or midwifery; are of interest to an international audience; and are appropriate to the chosen media. The EOI must be in English. EOI from non-midwives and midwifery students are welcome. Presenters need not be experienced in using electronic media - each presenter will be allocated a facilitator for support. Presenters need to have access to a computer with reliable internet access, a headset and preferably a webcam. Further information is available from: [admin@vidm.org](mailto:admin@vidm.org).

## INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY Nurses: A force for change - a vital resource for health



International Nurses Day is celebrated each year on 12 May, Florence Nightingale's birthdate. The International Council of Nurses has released the IND kit and poster for 2014. Start preparing now to celebrate IND in your community. For access to the kit, go to: <http://www.icn.ch/publications/2014-nurses-a-force-for-change-a-vital-resource-for-health/>.

## WHO GUIDANCE ON MEASLES CONTROL

The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific recently published the Measles Elimination Field Guide, which describes the current challenges and activities needed to interrupt measles transmission; to prevent and respond rapidly to emerging measles outbreaks; and to ensure sensitive surveillance is in place. The text is targeted to users in the Western Pacific Region however it is presented in a form that can be readily adapted by national immunisation managers to suit country situations. The Guide can be freely downloaded at: [http://www.wpro.who.int/immunization/documents/measles\\_elimination\\_field\\_guide\\_2013/en/index.html](http://www.wpro.who.int/immunization/documents/measles_elimination_field_guide_2013/en/index.html).

## PALLIATIVE CARE eLEARNING COURSE

eCancer, Cardiff University and the African Palliative Care Association have developed an online course in palliative care contextualised for African health care professionals including nurses. The course is available for free through eCancer. Filming and development of the modules took place in the UK and South Africa and involved input from 37 of Africa's leading palliative care experts. The Cardiff University team, worked closely with the African Palliative Care Association to ensure the content of the course was appropriate for the sub-Saharan cancer profile and resource setting. Further information is available at: <http://ecancer.org/education/education.php>.

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## THE COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2016

**The purpose of the CNF is to contribute to the improved health of citizens of the Commonwealth by fostering access to nursing education, influencing health policy, developing nursing networks and strengthening nursing leadership.**

### PROGRAMS

**The CNF will provide a wide range of programs and activities in consultation with and in partnership with members.**

1. Programs will be developed in response to identified needs and emerging issues.
2. Programs conducted by the CNF will be determined in consultation with members and the CNF Board.
3. Board members will be actively involved in delivering CNF programs.
4. All programs will be evaluated and a report made publicly available on the CNF website.
5. Programs will be provided across all regions of the CNF.

### MEMBERSHIP

**The CNF will provide a high quality service to members providing information, regular communication, and supporting capacity building and leadership development.**

1. Current membership will be actively maintained and new membership sought.
2. Members will be provided with regular communication on issues of interest to them.
3. Input from members will be sought when preparing CNF responses to issues of interest or concern.
4. The membership data base will be kept current.
5. A proposal for expanding membership categories will be developed and submitted to the CNF Biennial Meeting in 2014.

### COMMUNICATION

**The CNF will have a dynamic communication strategy which will effectively and attractively promote its purpose and activities to members and other stakeholders.**

1. The CNF e-News will be published monthly and sponsorship maintained.
2. The *Commonwealth Nurse* will be published bi-annually; member contributions actively sought; and advertisements and sponsorship sought to offset costs.
3. The *Commonwealth Nurse* will be published online from its own website to increase access and reduce paper, printing and postage costs.
4. The CNF website will be updated regularly.
5. Opportunities will be sought to have CNF activities publicised in other communication media and published in other relevant journals.

### LIAISON

**The CNF will maintain active links with relevant stakeholders within the Commonwealth and the wider international community in order to fulfil its purpose.**

1. Close links with the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth Secretariat will be maintained and opportunities pursued to partner with these organisations particularly in relation to Commonwealth Ministers' meetings.
2. Active participation in the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance will be maintained in order to influence policy at Commonwealth level.
3. Opportunities will be actively sought to partner with other organisations in activities which support the objectives of the CNF.
4. Close links will be maintained with the International Council of Nurses and the International Confederation of Midwives.
5. Formal links will be established and maintained with other relevant organisations.

### GOVERNANCE

**The CNF will be a well governed, responsive, responsible and transparent organisation.**

1. The President, Vice President and Board members will be actively engaged with all aspects of the organisation.
2. Democratic elections will be held in a timely manner and in accordance with the CNF Constitution.
3. Reports will be provided quarterly by the Executive Secretary to the President, Vice President and Board members covering all key strategic areas.
4. The Constitution of the organisation will be reviewed in consultation with members prior to each CNF Biennial Meeting.
5. The Annual Report including annual financial audit of the organisation will be circulated to members and other stakeholders and made available on the CNF website.

### ADMINISTRATION

**The CNF will maintain effective and efficient administrative processes with specific consideration to reducing costs and environmental impact.**

1. All files of the CNF will be held in a secure electronic format.
2. A permanent archival site will be sought to securely archive old paper format files.
3. A single comprehensive, current, and secure data base will service communication with members and other stakeholders.
4. All complaints received will be responded to in a timely manner and a report provided to the Board.
5. A project will be developed and funding sought to develop a history of the CNF.

### FINANCES

**The CNF will have a financial growth strategy, a diversified financial base and operate within open and transparent financial systems.**

1. An annual budget will be approved by the Board.
2. Membership subscriptions will be invoiced annually and payment of membership subscriptions will be actively pursued by the Executive Secretary and by Board members on request.
3. Opportunities will be actively sought to apply for grants, consultancies and sponsorships; and where feasible, work provided on behalf of other organisations will be on a cost recovery basis.
4. End of year financial statements will be prepared which include a comprehensive breakdown of income and expenditure.
5. The financial accounts of the CNF will be subject to an annual audit which will be publicly available to members, be uploaded to the CNF website, and form part of the CNF Annual Report.