



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

eNews Vol.5 Issue 10 October 2012



## RE-LAUNCH OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION

At a Commonwealth consultation with civil society on 24 September 2012, at Marlborough House, the Commonwealth Foundation unveiled its new strategic plan 2013-2016. Participatory governance and civil society will be the central concepts for the Foundation's work for the next four years underpinned by gender equality, environmental sustainability, and cultural respect and understanding. Participatory governance is defined in the strategic plan as: *how the state, the market and civil society interact to effect change*

Within the strategic plan a new grants programme was announced which includes a commitment to a £1 million allocation to the grants programme annually. The new priorities for grants are for projects or activities which:

- enhance the capacity of civil society organisations to collaborate with each other and engage in participatory governance,
- increase collaboration and learning between civil society organisations and institutions in governance.

The presentation of the Foundation's strategic plan contained a surprise announcement for accredited Commonwealth civil society associations (CAs). The dedicated funding stream for CAs, which gave them privileged access annually to core funding as well as activity funding, will no longer be available. Instead, three funding rounds will be offered each year which will be open to all civil society organisations across the Commonwealth. Individual grants will be increased up to £30,000 annually and multi-year funding will be available however CAs will have to compete for grant funding along with every other civil society organisation.

This has significant implications for the CNF which has relied on the annual grant from the Commonwealth Foundation to support its work and provide essential core funding. The announcement comes on top of the Commonwealth Secretariat proposal to remove health and education as areas future activity.

Most Commonwealth accredited associations are small organisations with only part-time or volunteer staff with very limited organisational capacity to submit funding applications. Despite this, the pan-Commonwealth networks CAs have established are highly effective, particularly in supporting and nurturing national and regional associations in their area of interest. Many CAs will find it hard to see how their particular area of interest fits with participatory governance in a way that will enable them to compete successfully for grant funding.

The CNF has been invited to be a member of a transition committee which aims to provide support to Commonwealth accredited associations in transitioning into the new arrangements. Whether they will be able to do so successfully is yet to be seen.

Copies of the Commonwealth Foundation strategic plan are available on their website: <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com>.

## COMING EVENTS



10<sup>th</sup> CNF Europe Region Conference  
**Advancing nursing and midwifery through evidence based practice**  
15-16 March 2013 Larnaca Cyprus

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Closing date for abstracts: Friday 14 December 2012  
For more information go to: <http://www.cyna.org>



Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference  
**Looking back and thinking ahead**

16-19 March 2013 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Closing date for abstracts: Sunday 30 December 2012  
For more information go to:  
<http://www.tnmc.go.tz>



ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress  
**Equity and Access to Health Care**  
18-23 May 2013 Melbourne Australia  
**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**  
Go to: <http://www.icn2013.ch/en/>

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A photograph of the London skyline, featuring the Elizabeth Tower (Big Ben) and the Palace of Westminster. In the foreground, two ornate black street lamps stand on a stone-paved walkway. A white metal railing runs along the edge. A single pigeon is visible on the ground. The sky is overcast and hazy.

# Conference 2014

Commonwealth Nurses Federation

## NURSES AND MIDWIVES: AGENTS OF CHANGE

2nd Commonwealth Nurses Conference  
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 March 2014  
London United Kingdom

### Conference Announcement

The conference will be based around key themes and will provide an opportunity for nurses and midwives to showcase their practice and share their contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of citizens of the Commonwealth. The conference is being held on the eve of Commonwealth Week 10–14 March 2014; so come and join the celebrations and fun on Commonwealth Day Monday 10 March 2014 and other Commonwealth Week events.



Commonwealth  
Nurses Federation