



Annual Report 2003 - 2004

On 17 November 2003 several members of staff at RPA Women and Babies were invited by Maureen Ryan (Senior Educator and Head of Department, Low Risk Obstetrics) to come together with the aim of forming a centre for research in the area of midwifery and perinatal nursing. The enthusiasm generated from this inaugural meeting has been sustained.

At the inaugural meeting, Sandie Bredemeyer acted as chairperson on behalf of Maureen Ryan and Shelley Reid was the minutes secretary. The name of the Centre was agreed (as above) and the goals and objectives for the Centre were discussed. Sponsorship was a priority for advancement of the Centre's goals. An official launch was projected for 2004 once the centre was established.

Philosophy, terms of reference and strategic plan

These documents were developed concurrently throughout 2004. The philosophy was debated by the committee and endorsed in August 2004. Terms of reference for the sub-committees (management and operational) were endorsed in July 2004. A three-year strategic plan was developed in April, also endorsed by the Centre in July 2004.

Committee membership 2004

The Centre committee for 2004 was Maureen Ryan (chair), Dr Sandie Bredemeyer OAM, Valerie Smith, Hannah Dahlen, Shelley Reid (minutes secretary), Jan Polverino, Charlene Thornton (Research Bulletin coordinator), Hala Phipps, Kate Griew, Kate Cheney, Michael Whaites and Mary Lantry. Inquiries may be directed to the RPA Women and Babies Executive Office telephone 9515 8416.

Research Directory

Charlene Thornton began to develop this publication. Planned to produce bi-annual editions.

Logo

Jan Polverino invited Leanne Dwight (graphic designer) to design a logo for the Centre, to be used on stationary and PowerPoint slides.

RPA Nursing and Midwifery Research Advisory Group

This group was formed as an initiative of the RPA Nursing Advisory Council, led by Janice Gullick. Charlene Thornton and Shelley Reid were selected to represent the Centre at meetings and liaise between the two groups.

Collaboration with Faculty of Nursing, University of Sydney

In November 2004 the Centre met with Professor Jocelyn Lawler (Dean) and Maureen Boughton from the Faculty of Nursing to discuss establishing a partnership. The Centre agreed to pursue this as there would be distinct advantages for the Centre: identifying and establishing programs of research that can be undertaken in collaboration by both parties, promoting and encouraging postgraduate research training opportunities and promoting and encouraging the teaching and learning of postgraduate students.

Conference presentations

Bredemeyer, S & Polverino J (2004). TcB: do they improve practice? *ANNA Professional Day*, Sydney.

Polverino J & Bredemeyer S (2004). Managing procedural pain and discomfort in the special care nursery. *ANN Country Conference*, Coffs Harbour.

Polverino J, Zions S (2004). Blankets of love 12 years on. *ANN 15th Annual Conference*, Sydney.

(Hala and Charlene at midwives conference in Perth).

Publications

Griew K (2003). Birth centres: a social model for maternity care (chapter). In: Kirkham M (Ed.). *Birth Centre Midwifery Down Under*. Sydney: Elsevier Science.

Written by Shelley Reid on behalf of the RPA Women and Babies Centre for Midwifery & Nursing Research.