Politics justice and collaborative leadership: reflections on HIV nursing
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HIV Clinical Nurse Consultant/
HIV Team Coordinator
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Homeless Persons Program

HIV Program at the Royal District Nursing Service (now Bolton Clarke)

1985 – one nurse at Royal District Nursing Service

1990 – integrated with Victorian AIDS Council

2015 – joined Homeless Persons Program

2017 – merged with RSL care and re-named Bolton Clarke

Funded by the Sexual Health and Viral Hepatitis Program
Prevention, Population Health and Place branch
Health and Wellbeing Division
Victorian Department of Health

1. Clinical and community-based care and support
2. Health promotion
HIV team

- 2 Regional Clinical Nurse Consultants (Grade 4)
- 3 HIV Resource Nurses (Grade 3)
- 1 HIV Liaison at Alfred Hospital
- 1 Clinical Nurse Consultant at Royal Melbourne Hospital (separate funding)
- Link in with general nursing and other specialties
Who are our clients in 2017?

235 clients (3% of PLHIV in Victoria)
- From 38 countries (35 languages)
- Median age 51-55 yrs (range 1-92 years)
- Majority have several comorbidities
  ~20% opportunistic illnesses
  70% mental health,
  25% substance use
  35% neurocognitive
- Late HIV presentation
- ~40% homeless
- 16% refugees and asylum seekers
Justice

Building the evidence for the effectiveness of HIV community nursing

IMPROVING HIV RELATED BIOMARKERS
IN COMPLEX INDIVIDUALS

By Kurt Andersson-Nocerio and Denise Cummins

Introduction/background

Adherence to treatment plans to manage disease can be difficult for many patients. This can result in inadequate treatment, treatment failure, increased costs and ongoing care issues.
Justice

Council-supported condom vending machines: are they acceptable to rural communities?

Jane E. Tomnay and Beth Hatch

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Justice

Financial stress is associated with reduced treatment adherence in HIV-infected adults in a resource-rich setting

J McAllister, G Beardsworth, E Lavie, K MacRae and A Carr

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Politics from the Greek ‘politika’, ‘affairs of the cities’

‘The most political of diseases’
(Altman 1992)
Examples of nursing politics and activism

ANMF in early days of epidemic – very active in education and support for nurses, resource development.

Acting locally with Aboriginal Health Workers

Recent work
- Submissions to PBAC on nurse prescribing
- Support of safe injecting facility in Melbourne
- Access to PrEP
Collaborative leadership

"...if you bring the appropriate people together in constructive ways with good information, they will create authentic visions and strategies for addressing the shared concerns of the organization or community."

Chrislip and Larson 1994
Collaborative leadership in policy

Sexual transmission of HIV and the law: an Australian medical consensus statement

Denise Cummins nurse-led resource development on HIV associated neurocognitive disorder

Collaborative leadership in research

PATIENT VOICE: ENCOURAGING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HIV ASSOCIATED NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDER

By Denise Cummins, Donna Waters, Christina Aggar, David Crawford and Catharina O'Connor

HIV associated neurocognitive disorder (HAND) affects many...
Theme of World AIDS Day 2017 is ‘let’s end it’

Nurses are integral to that goal – we are the ones who locate, support, engage, treat, provide harm reduction and other prevention education in an informed way and from a nursing perspective – nurses are the linchpin for many members of key populations in the ‘treatment cascade’.

Let’s act with a focus on justice, politics and collaborative leadership
References


