MEDIA RELEASE

Vital chronic disease and mental health eLearning resources launched

The Australian College of Mental Health nurses is excited to launch its eLearning package *Enhancing the patient journey: training nurses to investigate physical and mental health care*.

“This eLearning package will help maximise health outcomes and improve the patient journey for people with chronic disease”, CEO of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Ryan said.

The free resource highlights the connection between physical and mental health and aims to improve the identification, early intervention, treatment and management of mental illness in people with chronic physical illness.

Aimed at general nurses, it is an important component of addressing the burden of chronic disease in Australia. The resources provide four hours of interactive, online learning that nurses can complete at their own pace.

“The resources are designed to meet the learning needs of nurses and address interventions within a nursing scope of practice,” said Ms Ryan.

“The Department of Health provided project funding of $680,000 as part of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Service Improvement Fund to improve the knowledge and skills of nurses in identifying and managing mental health conditions associated with chronic disease,” said Dr Rosemary Bryant, Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, who also chaired the Expert Advisory Group.

“Importantly, the project focused on key health priority areas of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and respiratory disease, and will assist nurses in working effectively and collaboratively with consumers, carers, other health professionals and service providers to present integrated care to patients,” said Dr Bryant.

The resources were launched during the 39th International Mental Health Nursing Conference, being held in Perth this week. Approximately 400 mental health nurses are attending the Conference, which is an opportunity for participants to stay up to date on trends in clinical practice, research, education and explore the changing scope of mental health nursing.

For further information about these resources, go to the CPD portal at [www.acmhn.org](http://www.acmhn.org).

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