



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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BOB FENWICK MEMORIAL GRANTS PROGRAM OPEN

Mental health nurses across regional NSW are being encouraged to apply for professional development grants as part of the 2012/13 Bob Fenwick Memorial Mentoring Grants Program, which open today.

NSW Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, said the grants program will offer up to 20 regional mental health nurses the opportunity to undertake a range of learning and development opportunities.

“The Mentoring Grants Program was established to honour Bob Fenwick, a mental health nurse who was tragically killed while on duty at Bloomfield Hospital in Orange in January last year,” Mr Humphries said

“The award recognises the inspiring and important role he played throughout his career in supporting less-experienced mental health nurses and promoting their professional development.

“The grants program will provide important learning and development opportunities for regional mental health nurses and further strengthen the high quality care they provide to patients.”

Through the program the NSW Government will offer up to 20 nurses a short placement at a site away from their usual workplace, providing the opportunity to:

- Increase their knowledge, competence and confidence in mental health nursing which will positively impact on their professional practice;
- Expand their professional support networks, which is particularly important for rural and regional mental health nurses and;
- Experience a different health setting, providing a better understanding of other clinical environments.

“This initiative will continue to build on the success of the inaugural 2011/12 program, where 13 mental health nurses were awarded a grant,” Mr Humphries said.

“The successful recipients reported an increase in confidence, competence and knowledge of mental health nursing following placements. It is a very beneficial program and I encourage mental health nurses throughout NSW to apply.”

The closing date for applications is 30 November 2012. More detailed information and Expression of Interest forms can be found on the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association website www.nswnma.asn.au.