



**Continenence Nurses Society Australia Inc (CoNSA)**

Including:

Continenence Nurses Society Australia, New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Branch Inc

Continenence Nurses Society Australia, Queensland Branch Inc

Continenence Nurses Society Australia, Victorian and Tasmania Branch

Continenence Nurses Society Australia, South Australian, Northern Territory and Western Australian Branch

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Dear CoNSA Member,

The final of the draft CoNSA Practice Standards for Nurse Continence Specialists is almost completed. Joan Ostazskiewicz, Liz Watt and myself have met a few times to review the Practice Standards based on the survey feedback we received from you, our members. We have done a further read through to check for duplication and are putting the final touches to the document. It is a very impressive piece of work and I am proud of the document and how well it represents what the role of a Nurse Continence Specialist is. I look forward to presenting it for endorsement at the CoNSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November.

An abstract on the development of the Practice Standards for Nurse Continence Specialists has been accepted as a poster for the upcoming Continence Foundation of Australia (CFA) National Conference on Incontinence in November in Sydney.

An abstract on the survey of CoNSA members on vaginal and rectal examinations has also been accepted as a poster at the CFA National Conference.

Please find attached the CoNSA 'Update on single versus reuse of urinary catheter drainage bags and catheters for intermittent catheterisation'. This is a review of CoNSA's previous position statement developed in 2008. We have decided to keep the document simple and to the point basing it on the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) guidelines. I would like to thank you to Joan Ostazskiewicz, Joanne Dean, Alyson Sweeney, Liz Watt and Anna Walshe in the development of this document.

If you are planning to attend this year's CFA National Conference, you may have noticed the vaginal and digital rectal examination workshop on Wednesday 15 November that is available to CoNSA registered nurse members. If you would like to upskill in this area, please consider attending this workshop. Vicki Paton, CoNSA Vice President, is running the workshop and it will involve a hands-on component examining life models. Remember, being skilled in physical examination, including vaginal and rectal examinations, is essential to the Nurse Continence Specialist role as reflected in the Practice Standards.

The CoNSA AGM and Dinner sponsored, by Independence Australia and Tena, will involve a Darling Harbour cruise on 15 November. More information will be sent out a little closer to the date. If you are planning to attend the vaginal and digital rectal examination workshop, rest assured that you will be returned to Darling Harbour from St George's Hospital in time to attend.

Independence Australia and Tena are sponsoring 10 CoNSA members to attend the CoNSA AGM and Dinner and CFA National Conference. The following CoNSA members are the lucky recipients:

Stephen Marburg, Vic

Nicola Jelinek, NT

Jodie Kerr, Vic

Clare Cotterell, Qld

Kath Forster, Vic

Helen Polkinghorne, SA

Luke Derriman, Vic

Hayley Leek, NSW

Lesa Miller, Vic

Mary Kelly, NSW

CoNSA National and CoNSA Vic/Tas are in the process of writing to the Minister and Assistant Minister for Disability Services about CoNSA members concerns regarding:

- the rate of reimbursement for a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) continence assessment and
- who can attend a continence assessment under the NDIS.

We have sought guidance from the Australian Nursing Midwifery Federation (ANMF). We are very aware of the negative impact the NDIS may have on Nurse Continence Specialists throughout Australia. CoNSA members have raised these concerns with National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). I would encourage CoNSA members to voice your concerns directly to the NDIA and with your local member of parliament.

Finally, I would like to welcome Joby Alex as the new CoNSA NSW/ACT representative.

Yours sincerely



JANIE THOMPSON

President, CoNSA National