

THE PSYCHOGERIATRIC NURSES'
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA (INC)
-PGNA-

Mental Health in Late Life

The Psychogeriatric Nurses Association (PGNA) was first established by constitution in 1995 by a small band of dedicated nurses working in NSW.

The aim of PGNA was to support Psychogeriatric and Aged Care Nurses who were caring for older people with mental health and age related problems including those with significant cognitive impairment.

PGNA has grown since that time with members working across most of the States and the two Territories of Australia in a wide range of aged care, dementia care and aged care psychiatry service settings. PGNA members represent inpatient and community care settings including residential aged care facilities and the NGO sector including the academic arena. To reflect this growth PGNA was incorporated in 2005 and renamed The Psychogeriatric Nurses Association, Australia (Inc).

PGNA has affiliation with the College of Nursing and became a member of the Coalition of National Nursing Organisations (CoNNO) in 2008.

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Psychogeriatric Nurses, Aged and Dementia Care Nurses have at the core of their practice the attainment for older adults of optimum levels of physical and mental health and of providing support for their families and carers.

To assist nurses to achieve these goals PGNA is:

Providing encouragement and communication among psychogeriatric nurses
Generating education, research, knowledge and skills in psychogeriatric, aged and dementia care nursing
Nurturing national best practice in psychogeriatric nursing, and
Advancing psychogeriatric nursing as a specialty nursing discipline.

PGNA offers both full membership to all nurses and associate membership to non-nursing colleagues who work in the aged care, dementia care and psychogeriatric sector.

Being a member of PGNA provides opportunities for networking and forming relationships with other professional bodies, gaining and transferring knowledge through continual education and conference participation and having a unified professional voice.

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PGNA holds biennial conferences and biennial Education and Research evenings. The Annual General Meeting is held each year at these events organized by PGNA's Education and Research Committee.

PGNA also offers scholarships of up to \$500.00 to members who have had one year continual membership.

Membership forms and other information about PGNA can be found on the website: www.pgna.org.au

Older adults experiencing mental health problems commonly have co morbid medical diseases or other complicating psycho-social issues. PGNA is a specialty nursing group representing and supporting the combination of aged care, dementia care and aged care psychiatry nurses in Australia. So, come and join us in raising the profile of this expanding, challenging, and exciting nursing specialty. Help us progress the special needs of a diverse population of older people to improve their quality of life and maintain well-being regardless of their place of residence or the service setting of care.

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PGNA Membership

Class 1 - Full Voting Membership.

This is available to any person who is a registered or enrolled nurse primarily engaged in, or with an interest in, psychogeriatric or aged and dementia care nursing

Class 2 - Associate Non-Voting Membership.

This is available to any other health care worker or professional person who has an interest in psychogeriatric or aged and dementia nursing care

Class 3 - Life Membership - the Executive Committee may from time to time confer life membership upon Class 1 members, who have, by their efforts, consistently promoted the interests and progression of the Association.

Payment of PGNA Membership and Associate Membership Fees:

Full Voting Membership

The current annual fee is \$40

Associate Non-Voting Membership

The current annual fee is \$20

The annual fee covers the calendar year from 1st July to 30th June in the next calendar year

Life Membership - no fee attached.

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