

INNOVATIONS IN PRACTICE AWARDS 2011

2011 Innovations in Practice Awards – Judging Panel

Chair

Alice Burchill - Deputy Secretary, Care Reform

Panel Members

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC – Independent Member for Murchison (sent with photo)

Ruth completed her General Nurse training at the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie in 1982. She completed an Intensive Care Course in 1982-83 and Midwifery training in February 1984. She has worked as a nurse and midwife since 1984, primarily as a midwife in both public and private hospital settings. Since 1989 she has worked as a midwife, predominantly in a caseload model of care.

Ruth has been a member of the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) since 1989 holding various offices including Tasmanian Branch President 2000 – 2005. Ruth was awarded Fellowship of the College in September 2001. She has extensive experience in childbirth education and was a member of the National Association of Childbirth Educators Inc. (NACE Inc.) from 1999 - 2004 holding various offices including State Branch President. Ruth has worked for Family Planning Tasmania as a Clinical Nurse and contributed to a number of midwifery/health related committees and councils.

In May 2005, Ruth was elected to the Legislative Council of Tasmania as an Independent Member, representing the rural and remote electorate of Murchison where she maintains a strong and active interest in the delivery of health services.

Mr Mike Woolley – Consumer Representative

Mike Woolley was born in Launceston and completed his education in Tasmania.

Mike graduated from the University of Tasmania and has worked for most of his life as a teacher enjoying the specialty areas of mathematics, science, computer studies (IT) and electronics. His teaching career has included time in the communities of Campbell Town, Ouse, Huonville, Kingston and New Norfolk.

Mike has provided consumer representation to a number of organisations including the subcommittees of the Nursing Board of Tasmania.

Mike is married to Elizabeth and enjoys life with his three children and five grandchildren.

Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms, – Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer – NSW Department of Health

Debra is the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer with NSW Health and has held that position since May 2006. In June 2010 she was also appointed as the Chief Executive for Caring Together the NSW Government Action Plan in response to the findings of the Inquiry in Acute Public Hospitals (Garling)

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Debra completed her general nursing education at Prince Henry/Prince of Wales Hospitals, Sydney and her midwifery education at the Royal Darwin Hospital, NT. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics and psychology and a Masters of Nursing Administration.

Debra has worked in metropolitan, rural and remote health settings in NSW, the Northern Territory and South Australia in both acute and community health services.

Debra was made an Adjunct Professor of Nursing at the University of Technology, Sydney in 2003 and at The University of Sydney in 2009.

Her interests are in leadership, organisational culture and the career decisions of senior nurses.

Ms Karen Murphy, Principal Adviser Allied Health, ACT Health

Professor James Vickers, School of Medicine – University of Tasmania