

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

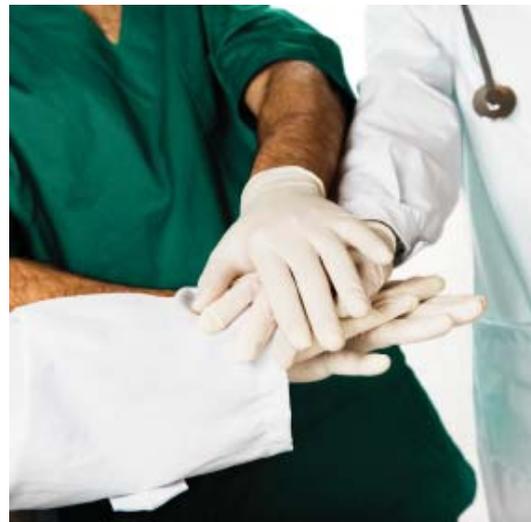
## Community Nursing

**Dr Jane Cioffi and Professor Lesley Wilkes from the School of Nursing together with the Sydney West Area Health Service have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership Program grant to determine the position of the community nurse in community-based multidisciplinary teams caring for clients with chronic and complex conditions.**

'The growing number of clients with chronic and complex conditions (characterized by complex causes, multiple risk factors, a long latency period, a prolonged course of illness, functional impairment or disability and, in most cases, unlikely cure) is placing high demand to provide quality care on multidisciplinary health care teams in the community' says Dr Cioffi. 'To date, the role of the community nurse in this team has remained ambiguous.'

The study will be conducted in two phases and use a number of different approaches to explore the position of the community nurse. Two focus groups will be held with the community nurses, a further two with the multidisciplinary health care workers and one with the acute care health professionals to find out what they understand to be the role and position of the community nurse. The Delphi technique which is a method of generating ideas and facilitating consensus among an expert panel made up of clinical nurse specialists and consultants will be used to refine and validate role descriptions. This will be structured through a series of three rounds of questionnaires.

The results will lead to community nurses being employed more effectively and prepared more



comprehensively to be multidisciplinary team members. It will also provide greater client satisfaction, increased community nurse role embracement, improved clinical outcomes and streamlined use of community-based resources.

**Project Title:** Care of clients with chronic and complex conditions: Role of the community nurse in the multidisciplinary team

**Funding has been set at:** \$9,975

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**For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:**

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/fundingopps/internalgrants>