

Meet the Nurses – Allan Carlow

CURRENT POSITION

Consultation Liaison Psychiatric Nurse

POSITION DESCRIPTION (What does your role involve?)

Providing a psychiatric consultation liaison nursing service to non-psychiatric clinical staff in the general hospital.

Provision of education re psychiatric illness and management of both informally and formally at in-service education sessions.

I have involvement in the review of patients being specialised on the general wards with behavioural disturbance to provide recommendations re management.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT PENINSULA HEALTH?

Since January 2004

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED IN NURSING AND IN WHAT AREAS?

(Nursing experience)

I commenced my nursing career in 1982

I completed my Psychiatric Nurse training in 1985 and then my General Nurse training in 1988.

Since then I have worked predominantly in community mental health, both in the continuing care setting and in the acute setting with the Cat service.

I came to peninsula health in January 2004 and worked as manager of the CAT service.

Over the past 6-8 months I have been employed in the consultation Liaison psychiatric nursing role.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE NURSING AS A CAREER?

I chose nursing due to the diversity of areas of specialty with opportunity to consider and work in a variety of settings.

WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF YOUR JOB?

I enjoy the broad range of psychiatric presentations within the general hospital setting.

I enjoy providing education re psychiatric illness and its management to improve service delivery to patients with psychiatric problems.

I enjoy getting around to all of the wards in the hospital and forming good working relationships with them.

As well as sharing my knowledge about psychiatry I gain a lot of knowledge from the staff in the general wards.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE CAREER PLANS?

To continue in consultation liaison psychiatry. I would like to see the service grow in the future and be involved in developing the service.