Postgraduate pathways for PICU and NICU nurses

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Why do we pursue postgraduate education?

- Planned professional career pathway
- Realisation within a role the need for further knowledge/skills
- Own individual interest

My pathway

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- Hospital certificates2 yrs
 - Cardiothoracic
 - PICU
- BN conversion1 yr
- MN (4 yrs P/T) 2 yrs
- PhD candidate3. 5 yrs

11.5

PICU/NICU qualification – what now?

- Type of undergraduate program
 - 3 yrs or 4 yrs
 - Graduate entry master of nursing science

- Type of PICU/NICU qualification
 - Hospital based
 - Graduate certificate/graduate diploma
 - Masters level

Types of education

Continuing education/supplementary courses

Academic programs

What role?

- Advanced practice
 - Nurse practitioners
 - CNS
 - ICU Liaison/Outreach roles
 - Nurse Consultant

Advanced practice nursing includes specialisation but also involves expansion (Hamric, 2005)

Nurse practitioner

Key elements

- Diagnostic reasoning
- Advanced therapeutic interventions
- Advanced education

Key elements

- Dynamic Practice
- Professional efficacy
- Clinical leadership

(NAPNAP, 2004)

(ANMC, 2006)

NP's in Pediatric Critical Care

 Survey of 74 NP's & time (%) spent in role responsibilities

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72% direct inpatient care
8% coordination of care
8% nursing education
4% support of systems
3% medical education
3% consultation
2% research
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(Verger, 2005)

Nurse Practitioner/APN

Professional Doctorate

Masters Nursing (NP)

Clinically based
Masters
(nursing & non nursing)

Practice doctorate for APN's

For

- Changing role of APN
- Status of Masters degree
- Expert clinicians practicing & teaching doctoral level

Against

- Another degree confusing public & profession
- Potential to decrease numbers in nursing faculty
- Marginalisation

(Clinton & Sperhac, 2006; Loomis et al., 2006; Meleis & Dracup, 2005) http://www.nursingworld.org/ojin/topic28/tpc28toc.htm

Education roles

- Clinical based educator
- University based lecturer
- Combined lecturer/Practitioner
- Practice Development

Educator/ Lecturer

PhD or professional doctorate

Masters Nursing

Masters Education

Management/leadership roles

- Clinical nurse manager
- Clinical Nurse Consultant
- Nurse Practice Coordinator

Manager/
Leader

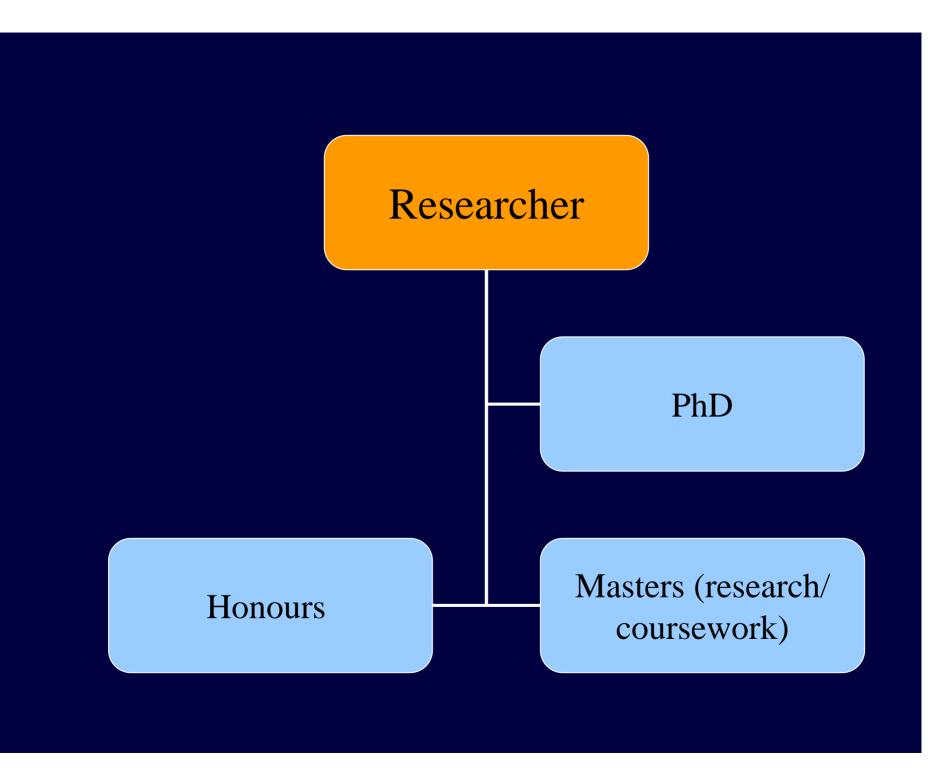
Professional Doctorate

Masters Nursing

Masters Business/ Administration

Research Roles

- Nurse researcher
- Nurse Scientist
- Clinical Nurse Consultant
- Clinical academic partnerships



PhD versus Professional Doctorate

PhD Professional/

practice doctorate

Purpose Research training Practice focused

Admission Honours degree Masters degree

Program Undertake substantial more structured piece original research coursework program

Thesis 70000 - 100000 words 30000 - 60000 words

PhD by publication

Shortage of nurses pursuing higher degrees

	1983/84 cohort (N=2418)	1993/94 cohort (N=4211)
Higher degree At 10 years	14%	17%
Higher degree At 20 years	26%	N/A
In Nursing At 10 years	8%	12%
MSN/Doctorate At 10 years	2%	4% (Bevill et al., 2007)

Some things to consider

- Flexible delivery modes
- Recognition of prior learning/experience (credit transfer)
- Specialty versus broader focus
- Interprofessional/multidisciplinary programs
- Resources to support supervision & research culture

Some things to consider

- Cost
 - Scholarships/time support
 - Part time or full time
- Transferability across nations
- Equity in access
 - Developing countries

Conclusion

- Many exciting opportunities to pursue advanced education
- Need to become more strategic in planning for advanced education
- Partnerships across universities & clinical agencies to maximise use of resources & expertise to conduct programs within our specialties