

# An Introduction to Community & Primary Health Care

*Third edition*

Community and primary health care nursing is a rapidly growing field, encompassing a wide range of practice types. Founded on the social model of health, the primary health care approach explores how social, environmental, economic and political factors affect the health of the individual and communities, and the role of nurses and other health care practitioners in facilitating an equitable and collaborative health care process. To equip students for practice in Australia and New Zealand, *An Introduction to Community and Primary Health Care* provides an engaging introduction to the theory, skills and range of professional roles in community settings.

This edition has been fully revised to include current research and practice, and includes three new chapters on health informatics, refugee health nursing and developing a career in primary health care. In each chapter, case studies illustrate the application of theory within community health care settings to encourage students to reflect on their own practice, and reflective and critical thinking questions consolidate understanding of key topics.

Written by an expert team, with professional, research and academic experience, this highly readable text is an indispensable resource for any reader undertaking a course in community and primary health care and developing their career in the community.

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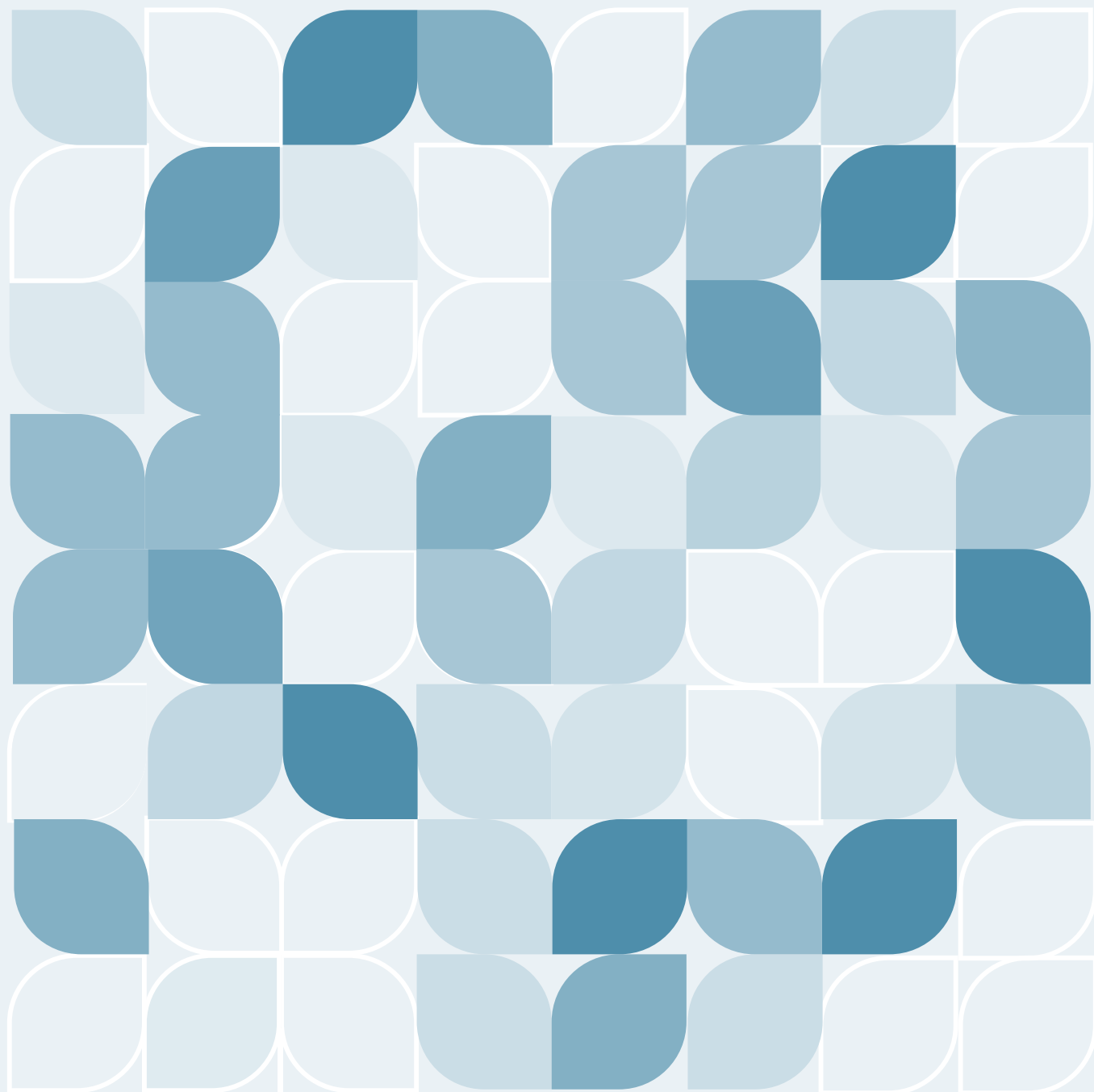
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# Contents

<i>About the authors</i>	xiv
<i>Preface</i>	xix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xx
<b>Part I Theory</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Community and primary health care</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Diana Guzys</i>	
Introduction	4
The social model of health	4
Promoting health	7
Primary health care nursing	12
Working as part of the community	13
Conclusion	16
Critical thinking activities	17
Further reading	17
References	18
<b>2 Empowering individuals, groups and communities</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>Diana Guzys</i>	
Introduction	22
Health literacy	22
Health communication	24
Health literacy and health education	26
Factors that influence learning	30
Working with individuals	31
Working with groups	32
Working with populations	34
Conclusion	36
Critical thinking activities	37
Further reading	37
References	37
<b>3 Exploring disability from a social model of health perspective</b>	<b>41</b>
<i>Rhonda Brown</i>	
Introduction	42
Defining disability	42

The context for practice when working with people living with disability	43
Models of disability	44
Working with people living with disability	47
Understanding the health and needs of people living with disability	49
Multidisciplinary practice	53
Conclusion	55
Critical thinking activities	55
Further reading	56
References	56
<b>4 A lifespan and settings-based approach to mental health promotion</b>	<b>59</b>
<i>Dean Whitehead</i>	
Introduction	60
Defining mental health promotion	60
A lifespan and settings-based approach	62
Conclusion	73
Critical thinking activities	74
Further reading	74
References	74
<b>5 Indigenous health and well-being: wise and responsive practice in primary health care</b>	<b>80</b>
<i>Susan Mlcek and Kerry Taylor</i>	
Introduction	81
Historical influences on contemporary health	81
Why is primary health care appropriate for Indigenous health?	83
Indigenous ways of thinking, being and doing	85
Cultural responsiveness in practice	88
The role of the community nurse in primary health care and health promotion	94
Conclusion	96
Critical thinking activities	96
Further reading	96
References	96
<b>6 Gendered health</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Rhonda Brown and Stéphane Bouchoucha</i>	
Introduction	101
Sex and gender	101
Gender health disparities	103
Women's health	107
Men's health	110
Conclusion	115
Critical thinking activities	115
Further reading	116
References	116

<b>7</b>	Interprofessional practice	121
	<i>Susan McInnes, Kath Peters and Elizabeth Halcomb</i>	
	Introduction	122
	Professional roles, cultures and boundaries	123
	Working in teams	125
	Communication	126
	Reflective practice	131
	Conclusion	132
	Critical thinking activities	132
	Further reading	133
	References	134
<b>8</b>	Developing a career in primary health care	139
	<i>Kaara Ray B. Calma, Anna Williams, Susan McInnes and Elizabeth Halcomb</i>	
	Introduction	140
	Pre-registration nursing education	140
	Pre-registration clinical placement experiences	142
	Perceptions and attitudes	143
	Working in primary health care	144
	Conclusion	148
	Critical thinking activities	149
	Further reading	149
	References	149
<b>Part II Skills for practice</b>		<b>155</b>
<b>9</b>	Cultural competence and cultural safety	157
	<i>Diana Guzys and Kath Hoare</i>	
	Introduction	158
	Culture	158
	Diversity	160
	Power, prejudice and discrimination	160
	Culture, health and health care	161
	Cultural competence and cultural safety in practice	164
	Access to health care	167
	Conclusion	169
	Critical thinking activities	169
	Further reading	169
	References	170
<b>10</b>	Community health needs assessment	172
	<i>Diana Guzys</i>	
	Introduction	173
	Who or what is a community?	173

What do we mean by 'need'?	174
The principles of community health needs assessment	175
The process of undertaking a community health needs assessment	176
Collecting data in a community health needs assessment	178
Responding to identified needs	180
Conclusion	185
Critical thinking activities	186
Further reading	186
References	186
<b>11 Health-related program planning and evaluation</b>	<b>188</b>
<i>Dean Whitehead</i>	
Introduction	189
The theoretical underpinnings of the health promotion process	190
Planning health promotion	191
Implementing health promotion programs	197
Evaluating health promotion	198
Conclusion	202
Critical thinking activities	202
Further reading	203
References	203
<b>12 Health informatics</b>	<b>206</b>
<i>Kerryn Butler-Henderson</i>	
Introduction	207
Overview of health informatics	207
The building blocks	207
Innovations that have shaped health care	209
Primary care informatics	214
Consumer health informatics	215
Population health informatics	216
Information governance	217
A digital health workforce	218
Conclusion	219
Critical thinking activities	219
Further reading	219
References	220
<b>13 Managing chronic health conditions</b>	<b>222</b>
<i>Catherine Stephen and Elizabeth Halcomb</i>	
Introduction	223
What is a chronic condition?	223
Risk factors for chronic conditions	224
The Chronic Care Model	226



The nurse's role in managing chronic conditions	227
Conclusion	236
Critical thinking activities	236
Further reading	236
References	237
<b>14 Case management</b>	<b>240</b>
<i>Elizabeth Halcomb</i>	
Introduction	241
History of case management	242
Rationale for case management	243
Evidence for case management	243
Approaches to case management	244
Skills for case management	246
Case conferencing	248
Respecting autonomy	248
Termination of case management	250
Conclusion	250
Critical thinking activities	251
Further reading	251
References	251
<b>15 Home visiting, risk assessment and safety</b>	<b>255</b>
<i>Diana Guzys</i>	
Introduction	256
Safety in the community	257
Risk identification and management	257
When clients are at risk	266
Conclusion	268
Critical thinking activities	268
Further reading	268
References	269
<b>Part III Community and primary health care roles</b>	<b>271</b>
<b>16 Community health nursing</b>	<b>273</b>
<i>Rhonda Brown</i>	
Introduction	274
Community health nursing practice	274
The role of community health nurses	275
Community needs assessment	277
Responding to identified needs	280
Community and professional practice	281

x Contents

Conclusion	282
Critical thinking activities	282
Further reading	283
References	283
<b>17</b> Community mental health nursing	284
<i>Rhonda Brown</i>	
Introduction	285
The context of mental health care	285
Community mental health nursing	287
Promoting mental health	292
Conclusion	294
Critical thinking activities	295
Further reading	295
References	295
<b>18</b> Maternal, child and family health nursing	298
<i>Leesa Hooker</i>	
Introduction	299
Practice and policy context	299
The role of the maternal, child and family health nurse	301
Enhanced maternal, child and family health and outreach services	303
Primary care and primary health care	304
Exploring maternal, child and family health nursing practice	305
Conclusion	307
Critical thinking activities	307
Further reading	307
References	308
<b>19</b> School and youth health nursing	311
<i>Diana Guzys</i>	
Introduction	312
The role of the school nurse	312
Challenges for the school nurse	318
Youth-focused health nursing	319
Working with young people	320
Barriers to accessing health services	323
Conclusion	324
Critical thinking activities	325
Further reading	325
References	325
<b>20</b> Sexual health nursing	328
<i>Diana Guzys</i>	
Introduction	329

The role of the sexual health nurse	329
Taking a sexual health history	329
Examinations and investigations	333
Health promotion activities	334
Conclusion	337
Critical thinking activities	337
Further reading	337
References	338
<b>21 Drug and alcohol nursing</b>	<b>339</b>
<i>Rhonda Brown</i>	
Introduction	340
The context of drug and alcohol nursing practice	340
The role of drug and alcohol nurses	344
Community-based nursing practice	346
Conclusion	350
Critical thinking activities	351
Further reading	351
References	351
<b>22 Rural health nursing</b>	<b>353</b>
<i>Diana Guzys</i>	
Introduction	354
What is rural?	355
The context for practice of the rural health nurse	355
The role of the rural health nurse	356
Professional challenges of rural nursing	358
Advanced practice and nurse practitioners in rural health	360
Conclusion	361
Critical thinking activities	362
Further reading	362
References	362
<b>23 Refugee health nursing</b>	<b>364</b>
<i>Bronwen Blake and Sandy Eagar</i>	
Introduction	365
War, displacement and health	366
Offshore health assessments	367
Settlement and health	367
Refugee health assessments	368
Conclusion	373
Critical thinking activities	373
Further reading	373
References	374

<b>24</b>	Occupational health nursing	377
	<i>Rhonda Brown</i>	
	Introduction	378
	Occupational health and safety	378
	The role of the nurse in occupational health and safety	379
	Conclusion	387
	Critical thinking activities	387
	Further reading	387
	References	387
<b>25</b>	Nursing in general practice	389
	<i>Elizabeth Halcomb</i>	
	Introduction	390
	The general practice setting	390
	The general practice workforce	391
	The role of the general practice nurse	392
	Professional practice standards	394
	Conclusion	395
	Critical thinking activities	396
	Further reading	396
	References	396
<b>26</b>	Home-based care	399
	<i>Jacqueline Allen and Rhonda Brown</i>	
	Introduction	400
	The history of home-based nursing	400
	Changing contexts of home-based care	401
	Home visiting	404
	Multidisciplinary practice	405
	Conclusion	407
	Critical thinking activities	407
	Further reading	408
	References	408
<b>27</b>	Correctional nursing	410
	<i>Grant Kinghorn and Elizabeth Halcomb</i>	
	Introduction	411
	Correctional health systems	411
	The correctional population	412
	The correctional nursing role	413
	Correctional nursing challenges	416
	Conclusion	418
	Critical thinking activities	418
	Further reading	418
	References	419

<b>28</b>	<b>Nurse practitioners</b>	<b>421</b>
	<i>Kathleen Tori</i>	
	Introduction	422
	Career progression to nurse practitioner	422
	Scope of practice	424
	Nurse practitioners in Australia	424
	Conclusion	428
	Critical thinking activities	428
	Further reading	429
	References	429
	<i>Index</i>	<b>432</b>

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# Preface

This book aims to provide an easy-to-read foundation for any health care professional engaged in primary health care practice in the community.

Part I introduces the key concepts that underpin primary health care nursing practice. The objective is to provide a basic understanding of these concepts to enable students to explore the associated theory in depth; to provide a fundamental understanding that is so often assumed, rather than built.

The second part of the text provides information relating to skills used in community and primary health care practice. This information is discussed at a beginning practitioner level, with a view to being used as a launch pad for future practice.

The final part of the text uses a number of community and primary health care nursing roles to enable students to explore the numerous opportunities and diverse ways in which the concepts discussed in Parts I and II are implemented in daily practice. Although this section focuses on nursing practice, many of these roles occur within interdisciplinary teams, and therefore it provides similar insights for students from other health care disciplines. It is important to keep in mind that the wide selection of roles and titles presented may vary across and within the states and territories. The purpose of this section of the text is to demonstrate the links between theory and practice. One of the most exciting aspects of working in community and primary health care settings is that it offers many unique and eclectic practice possibilities to meet the diverse needs of individuals, their families and communities.

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