

An Introduction to Community and Primary Health Care

Second edition

In an ever-changing society, community health professionals often work independently in a wide variety of settings to meet the needs of both individuals and groups. To equip students for this complex field of practice, *An Introduction to Community and Primary Health Care* offers a comprehensive foundation in the theory, skills and application of community and primary health care in Australia and New Zealand.

This fully revised new edition incorporates current leading primary health care research and features new chapters focusing on Indigenous health, correctional nursing and nurse practitioners, reflecting the dynamic nature of community health care practice. The text highlights the necessary skills and roles of nurses and other health care professionals involved in the collaborative process of assisting individuals to manage change and achieve their optimum state of health. Learning objectives, reflective and critical thinking questions, case studies and further reading consolidate understanding of key concepts. Instructors can also find comprehensive supplementary resources on the companion website.

With each author writing in their areas of expertise, this highly practical resource equips students with the tools and knowledge they will need as community and primary health care professionals working in a diverse range of settings across Australia and New Zealand.

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Second edition

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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 One 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 a launching 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 One and Two 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. While a wide selection of roles is presented, it is important to keep in mind that these are not necessarily representative of roles with similar titles 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 practice 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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