

Expressions of Interest: Engaging Nurses in Clinical Ethics (ENCE) Program

The ENCE Program

The Engaging Nurses in Clinical Ethics (ENCE) program run through the Children's Bioethics Centre will be offered at RCH in 2022 in July/August and October/November. The aim of the ENCE program is to increase nursing confidence and engagement in clinical ethics discussions and decision making. The overall purpose is to optimise nursing input into clinical ethics issues at RCH.

Each of the 2022 programs will have an intake of approximately 10 nurses from RCH with one place reserved for a paediatric nurse from Monash. The first course (July/August) is specifically for Advanced Practice Nurses. The second course in (Oct/Nov) is aimed at ward nurses at any level.

Each course consists of 3 study days over 6 weeks held on site at RCH. There will be no virtual option for attendance unless the course must be fully online due to a change in COVID restrictions. Nurses will be required to use their professional development leave to be paid for these study days.

Topics covered include:

Introduction to clinical ethics

- Clinical Ethics (issues, challenges, questions) in nursing practice
- Recognising ethical issues: Reflective practice and narrative ethics

Ethics concepts that can help in thinking about ethical problems

- Zone of Parental Discretion
- Deciding with children

Experiencing ethical challenges in everyday nursing practice

- Moral distress and moral regret

Addressing ethical challenges in everyday nursing practice

- How to talk about ethical issues
- Nursing advocacy

Day 3 will also include a supported ethics simulation with an actor.

Nurses who complete the three days of the program will then be invited to attend drop-in monthly mentor sessions facilitated by a member of the CBC, and to join the Nursing Ethics Support Team (NEST), if they wish.

To be eligible to apply for this program you must be:

1. *A registered nurse employed at RCH with at least 2 years paediatric experience.*
2. *Employed in an APN role (for course 1 in July/August) or a clinical role on a ward such as an RN, CNS, CSN, CNE or AUM (for course 2 in October/November).*
3. *Able to commit to all program dates below.*
4. *Have your Unit Manager or Department Head approval.*

If we receive more applications than positions available in the course we will be selecting participants from a variety of wards/ departments based on the quality of their application.

Program Aim

To discuss common ethical issues encountered by nurses working in paediatric settings and to introduce related clinical ethics concepts for better understanding ethical dimensions of nursing practice.

Program Objectives

1. *To upskill participants in clinical ethics knowledge, frameworks and common ethical issues in the paediatric setting.*
2. *To increase participant confidence and skill in taking part in ethical discussions.*
3. *To increase confidence in participants in initiating a formal ethics process.*
4. *To enable participants to develop the skills to act as a clinical ethics resource in their area.*
5. *To increase ongoing nursing involvement in clinical ethics at RCH.*

Commitment

Applicants must be able to commit to 3 full study days 8.30am-4pm:

Course 1 (APNs)

Thursday 14th July

Thursday 28th July

Thursday 11th August

Course 2 (Ward nurses)

Thursday 27th October

Thursday 12th November

Thursday 24th November

How to apply

1. Fill in your part of the application form below
2. Ask your Unit Manager/ Department Head to endorse your application by completing their section. Note applications without Unit Manager/Department Head approval will not be considered
3. Submit your application by emailing to jenny.oneill@rch.org.au by:
Course 1: Sunday 22nd May. Successful applicants will be notified by Monday 30th May
Course 2: Sunday 14th August. Successful applicants will be notified Monday 22nd August

Applicant Details

Name:

Ward or Department:

Position:

Which course are you applying for

Course 1 (July/Aug)

Course 2 (Oct/Nov)

Previous ethics experience or training (for planning purposes only, previous experience/training will not affect the application outcome):

Please list any other professional development you have completed in the last 2 years:

Please outline why you are applying for this program:

Please outline how you might use the knowledge gained from this program to benefit your ward/department:

Applicant Signature

Signature:

Date:

Nurse Unit Manager/Head of Department Details

Name:

Ward or Department:

Position:

Will you support this applicant in attending the study days on the dates above?

(Note participant will be required to use PD leave)

Yes

No

Please comment on the applicant's qualities that would enable them to make the best use of this opportunity:

Please comment on how you might support this applicant to utilise the knowledge gained in this program to benefit your ward/department:

Nurse Unit Manager/Head of Department Signature

Signature:

Date:

Questions?

Contact Jenny O'Neill: jenny.oneill@rch.org.au