



The Australian Pain Society

2015
*Distinguished
Member
Award*

Awarded for services to the promotion,
treatment and science of pain management
and lifelong contribution to the
Australian Pain Society.

Denise Francis-King undertook her secondary education at St Dominic College in Auckland, New Zealand before completing a Diploma of Nursing at the Carrington Polytechnic Institute.

Her commitment and enthusiasm were evident in the early days - she received bursaries in all 3 years of study and won the Florence Nightingale

Award and Sir James Water Award on graduating in 1988. When Denise moved 'across the ditch' she had to complete a nursing degree in Australia so undertook a Bachelor of Nursing (Post Registration) at the University of Southern Queensland and graduated in 1996.

Denise's pain management journey commenced in July 1989 when she was appointed as a Registered Nurse to Ward 2C in the Burns Unit and Pain Clinic at Royal Brisbane Hospital. She steadily rose through the ranks, acting as a clinical nurse before becoming Clinical Research Coordinator in August 2001, a role she filled with distinction until November 2002. Working closely with Professor Tess Cramond AO OBE and team, Denise was involved in studies comparing hydromorphone extended release capsules with MS Contin tablets; the efficacy and tolerability of controlled release oxycodone and its effects on



Denise Francis-King

RN, BN, Grad Cert Health Management

quality of life; and comparison of the efficacy and safety of a buprenorphine transdermal delivery system with sublingual buprenorphine. Professor Cramond described Denise's attention to detail and record keeping as exemplary and also that these qualities earned the respect and admiration of trial monitors and helped to ensure the studies' success.

In November 2002 Denise was appointed Clinical Nurse Consultant of the Multidisciplinary Pain Clinic just in time to take on the mammoth task of moving the clinic to the James Mayne Building at the new Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospitals in 2003. This was quite an undertaking but one which she faced with her usual no problems, only solutions philosophy. The new centre incorporated an eight bed inpatient section, outpatient clinics, procedural and recovery areas and offices for the allied health team.

Further study followed and Denise completed a Graduate Certificate in Health Management from Queensland University of Technology in 2006. Her role includes the planning, supervision and co-ordination of nursing care for patients accommodated in the unit and outlying wards and for the patients attending outpatient and procedural appointments. She is also responsible for staff recruitment and selection, maintaining

the unit budget, occupational health and safety and staff development initiatives.

Over the years Denise has established strong links with the multidisciplinary pain team and colleagues from a variety of fields including differing wards and departments, biomedical engineering, theatre technicians, radiographers, porters and cleaning teams, and administrative staff, all of whom are essential to the smooth operation of what is now known as the Professor Tess Cramond Multidisciplinary Pain Centre (PTCMPC), officially named in 2008 by the Hon. Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor of Queensland.

Denise has been instrumental in the provision of nurse and patient education, not only within the PTCMPC but for other hospitals and community settings. Her colleagues describe her as a strong advocate for patients and a nursing leader who has contributed to the successful management of patients' pain, while maintaining her gentle nature and joyous sense of humour. They describe it as an honour to work with her.

A member of the Queensland Persistent Pain Strategy Steering Committee, Denise was also invited by Chairman, Professor Michael Cousins to be a delegate at the National Pain Summit. Denise received the Sir Ian MacFarlane Award at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital for Excellence in Clinical Practice and a Nursing Excellence Award at the 2006 Australian Pain Society Workshop in recognition of Professional Initiatives and Commitment to the

Multidisciplinary Pain Centre. She is registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Agency, is Treasurer of the Queensland Focus on Pain Group, and belongs to the Australian Pain Society and the Queensland Nurses Union.

Denise has managed her achievements with the help and support of her husband Peter and their two teenage daughters. She is an avid camper and caravanner and regularly visits family and friends in New Zealand.

We thank Denise for her strong commitment to pain management nursing and we welcome her as a Distinguished member of the Australian Pain Society.

