



# Nurses and information technology

## e-bulletin 4

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This is an update on the project investigating the use of information technology and information management systems by nurses. See [http://www.anf.org.au/it\\_project/](http://www.anf.org.au/it_project/) for the previous e-bulletins.

After piloting in July 2005, a survey was distributed to 10,000 nurses during August and September. The survey recipients were randomly selected using the Australian Standard Geographical Classification so that nurses in capital and regional cities, small rural towns and remote areas had an opportunity to contribute to the project.

There was an excellent response with more than 4200 surveys returned. An analysis of the returns will show whether the responses are reflective of the nursing workforce in Australia. Have we heard from: registered and enrolled nurses and assistants in nursing; clinical nurses, educators, managers and researchers; nurses from the public and private sectors, and from aged and community care?

The results of the survey are being analysed by the research partners from the University of Southern Queensland. Some of the areas to be considered during the analysis include: access to and use of computers; knowledge of current information technology initiatives; job requirements related to information technology/management; education and training; barriers to the use of information technology/management; technical support; management attitudes and support; and security and confidentiality issues.

The data analysis will guide the development of recommendations that will be forwarded to the Australian Government. A meeting of key stakeholders is being scheduled for late October/early November 2005 to review the recommendations being drafted by the project steering group.

Another e-bulletin will be distributed in December 2005.

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