

Australia and New Zealand

# Community as Partner

Theory and Practice in Nursing



SECOND EDITION

Karen Francis  
Ysanne Chapman  
Karen Hoare  
Melanie Birks



Wolters Kluwer  
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AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

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# **Community as Partner**

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**THEORY AND PRACTICE IN NURSING**

**Second Edition**

*For 'Uncle' Ken*

*Living long in our hearts and  
persecuting our brains  
as we delve into health statistics. May the red wine  
be to your liking where you now live.*

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

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# Community as Partner

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THEORY AND PRACTICE IN NURSING

Second Edition

Australian and New Zealand adaptation edited by

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# Contents

Preface.....	xi
Contributors to the Second Edition .....	xiii
Contributors to the First Edition .....	xiv
Reviewers—Australia and New Zealand.....	xv
Acknowledgements.....	xvii
 <b>PART I</b>	
<b>THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF WORKING WITH COMMUNITY AS PARTNER</b>	<b>1</b>
 <b>Chapter 1</b>	
<b>Primary healthcare</b>	<b>3</b>
Introduction .....	4
Globalisation.....	5
Factors directly affecting health .....	7
Primary healthcare .....	14
Where are we today? .....	24
Summary .....	26
Web resources .....	26
References.....	27
 <b>Chapter 2</b>	
<b>Epidemiology, demography and community health</b>	<b>31</b>
Introduction .....	32
Epidemiology.....	32
Demography.....	33
Levels of prevention in community health practice.....	33
Descriptive measures of health .....	34
Analytical measures of health .....	39
Criteria for determining causation .....	44
Sources of community health data .....	45
Screening for health conditions.....	47
Epidemiological approaches to community health research .....	49
Summary.....	53
Web resources.....	54
References.....	55
 <b>Chapter 3</b>	
<b>The Australian healthcare system</b>	<b>56</b>
Introduction .....	57
The health and social care system .....	57
The Australian Disability Strategy .....	62
Primary healthcare services.....	63
Healthcare facilities .....	65
The health status of Australians .....	68
Critique of the Australian healthcare system.....	69
Summary .....	69
Web resources .....	70
References.....	71



<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>The New Zealand healthcare system</b>	<b>73</b>
	Introduction .....	74
	The health and disability system.....	74
	The structure of the New Zealand health and disability sector.....	76
	Primary health organisations and the 'Better, Sooner, More Convenient' initiative.....	77
	Mental health strategy.....	81
	The New Zealand Disability Strategy .....	81
	Complementary and alternative medicine .....	81
	PHARMAC.....	82
	The health status of New Zealanders .....	83
	Critique of the health system .....	83
	Summary .....	84
	Web resources .....	84
	References.....	85
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Ethics and advocacy in community health nursing</b>	<b>87</b>
	Introduction .....	88
	What is ethics? .....	88
	Essential principles in healthcare ethics .....	90
	Applying the principles to the code of ethics for nurses in Australia .....	95
	Applying the principles of the code of ethics for nurses in New Zealand .....	96
	Ethical dilemmas in community health.....	97
	Summary .....	98
	Web resources .....	99
	References.....	99
	Further reading.....	100
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Building healthy and healing communities</b>	<b>101</b>
	Introduction .....	102
	Applying social ecology to community health .....	102
	Perspectives on community health partnerships .....	103
	Community participation .....	104
	Healing in the community.....	106
	Developing right-relationships .....	107
	Supporting communities to make change .....	109
	Participatory research .....	110
	Research projects using a social ecological framework.....	112
	Summary .....	114
	Web resources .....	114
	References.....	114
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Culturally competent partnerships with communities</b>	<b>117</b>
	Introduction .....	118
	Cultural safety.....	119
	Cultural competence.....	119
	Diversity, ethnicity and culture .....	121
	Culture, health, illness and nursing .....	122
	Cultural healthcare systems .....	123
	Decision making.....	125
	Cultural awareness exercises .....	126
	Becoming culturally competent .....	127

	Summary .....	128
	Web resources .....	128
	References .....	129
	Further reading .....	131
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Health policy for healthy communities and cities.....</b>	<b>132</b>
	Introduction .....	133
	World conferences on health promotion and healthy public policy .....	133
	Health promotion .....	135
	Healthy public policy .....	136
	Healthy communities and cities .....	139
	The social determinants of health .....	145
	Opportunities for community nursing .....	148
	Summary .....	149
	Web resources .....	149
	References .....	150
<b>PART II</b>	<b>THE PROCESS OF COMMUNITY AS PARTNER</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>Models to guide practice</b>	<b>160</b>
	Introduction .....	161
	Models of nursing .....	161
	Models of health promotion and community partnership .....	163
	Summary .....	169
	Web resources .....	170
	References .....	170
<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>Community assessment</b>	<b>172</b>
	Introduction .....	173
	Community assessment.....	173
	The Learning about the Community on Foot Survey .....	175
	The model of environmental scanning .....	180
	Community Assessment: Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre.....	185
	Summary .....	187
	Web resources .....	188
	References .....	188
	Further reading .....	189
<b>Chapter 11</b>	<b>Analysing data collected during a community assessment</b>	<b>190</b>
	Introduction .....	191
	Undertaking a community analysis .....	191
	Quantitative data analysis .....	191
	Qualitative data analysis.....	194
	Community analysis: Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre .....	195
	Reporting on community assessments and data analysis .....	211
	Constructing an analytical matrix: community as partner and the environmental scan.....	212
	Summary .....	214
	Web resources .....	214
	References .....	214



<b>Chapter 12</b>	<b>Planning a community health program</b>	<b>216</b>
	Introduction .....	217
	Change theory .....	217
	Planning for community health programs .....	219
	Components of a community health action plan .....	220
	Planning: Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre .....	222
	Partnerships between people concerned with primary healthcare .....	222
	Recording the community health program plan in a concise and retrievable form .....	225
	Assessing the resources needed to accomplish the plan .....	225
	Summary .....	225
	Web resources .....	226
	References .....	226
<b>Chapter 13</b>	<b>Implementing a community health program</b>	<b>227</b>
	Introduction .....	228
	Transition to action .....	228
	Turning the plan into action: Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre .....	229
	Community participation: Working with health professionals .....	230
	Sustainability .....	232
	Summary .....	233
	Web resources .....	233
	References .....	233
<b>Chapter 14</b>	<b>Evaluating a community health program</b>	<b>235</b>
	Introduction .....	236
	Types of evaluation .....	236
	Evaluation strategies .....	239
	Methods of data collection and generation .....	239
	Evaluation strategy: Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre .....	239
	Evaluation strategy: Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre .....	243
	Cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses .....	245
	Summary .....	246
	Web resources .....	247
	References .....	247
	Further reading .....	247
<b>PART III</b>	<b>STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH PROMOTION</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Chapter 15</b>	<b>Promoting health in children</b>	<b>251</b>
	Introduction .....	252
	Early childhood .....	252
	School-age childhood .....	257
	Adolescent health promotion programs .....	261
	Summary .....	264
	Web resources .....	264
	References .....	265
<b>Chapter 16</b>	<b>Promoting healthy partnerships in the workplace</b>	<b>269</b>
	Introduction .....	270
	Changing workplace .....	270
	Health-promoting partnerships in workplaces .....	271

Health-promoting workplace .....	274
Occupational health and safety .....	274
Health promotion activities in the workplace .....	276
Planning a health promotion program .....	278
Using stages of change in health promotion programs .....	280
Program implementation .....	281
Program evaluation .....	282
Tips for maintaining a health promotion program .....	283
Case management in the workplace .....	283
Summary .....	284
Web resources .....	285
References .....	285
 <b>Chapter 17 Promoting healthy partnerships with older people</b>	<b>288</b>
Introduction .....	289
Health status .....	289
Aged care planning .....	290
Access to healthcare .....	291
Safety in the community and home .....	292
Mental health and mental wellness .....	297
Health promotion for older people .....	297
Promoting wellness in older people .....	299
Summary .....	300
Web resources .....	300
References .....	301
Further reading .....	302
 <b>Chapter 18 Promoting healthy partnerships with people with chronic conditions</b>	<b>303</b>
Introduction .....	304
Characteristics of chronic health conditions .....	305
Health perception, chronic health conditions and self-management .....	307
Implementation of health promotion strategies .....	308
Research culture in community nursing .....	312
Summary .....	312
Web resources .....	313
References .....	313
 <b>Chapter 19 Promoting healthy partnerships with Indigenous communities of Australia and New Zealand</b>	<b>316</b>
<i>Denise Wilson</i>	
Introduction .....	317
Indigenous peoples .....	318
Indigenous health status .....	318
Determinants of Indigenous health .....	321
Working with Indigenous communities .....	324
Promoting health in Indigenous communities .....	326
Strategies for working effectively with Indigenous communities .....	333
Summary .....	336
Web resources .....	336
References .....	337
Further reading .....	339



<b>Chapter 20</b>	<b>Mental health promotion</b>	<b>341</b>
	<i>Anthony J. O'Brien</i>	
	Introduction .....	342
	Mental health .....	342
	Mental health promotion .....	344
	Individual and social factors associated with mental health.....	347
	Mental illness.....	349
	Mental health promotion policy .....	350
	Opportunities for community nurses .....	352
	Summary .....	353
	Web resources .....	354
	References.....	354
<b>Chapter 21</b>	<b>Promoting healthy partnerships with refugees and immigrants</b>	<b>357</b>
	Introduction .....	358
	Migrants and refugees .....	358
	Promoting health in migrant and refugee communities .....	363
	Community nurses and refugees health promotion programs.....	368
	Summary .....	369
	Web resources .....	369
	References .....	370
	Further reading .....	371
<b>Chapter 22</b>	<b>Promoting healthy partnerships with rural populations</b>	<b>372</b>
	Introduction .....	373
	Rurality .....	373
	Nursing in rural communities .....	374
	Building partnerships in rural communities .....	378
	Summary .....	382
	Web resources .....	383
	References .....	383
	Further reading .....	385
	<b>Appendix: Key health policies.....</b>	<b>386</b>
	<b>Index.....</b>	<b>399</b>



# Preface

*Community as Partner: Theory and Practice in Nursing* is well recognised throughout the nursing world as a soundly constructed textbook for undergraduate nursing students and clinicians alike. In particular, the approach taken in this text facilitates working in partnership with communities by providing a framework for community nurses planning to action a health promotion program or activity.

Exemplars from Australia and New Zealand provide insights into the health priorities and the diversity of the populations of both countries and these are supported by local statistics, references and websites. The focus of healthcare in Australia and New Zealand is changing to account for an increased policy emphasis on the prevention of illness and sustaining wellness in the population overall. Governments in both countries have identified national priorities for healthcare that parallel each other and underpin the way this book is arranged. Students guided by this text will be able to make the connection between various social and political influences and clinical practice. In addition, they will be able to use this information in designing, actioning and evaluating appropriate and effective health education and promotion strategies for communities where they practice.

Part I provides a broad overview of the theory and policy relating to primary healthcare from an international and a national perspective for both Australia and New Zealand. Types of service provision are outlined and the role of the community nurse is discussed in relation to these areas.

Part II provides a practical guide to the community nursing processes involved in working with individuals and communities to promote health. The part commences with a chapter addressing models to guide practice and follows with chapters on community assessment and analysis of assessment data, as well as planning, actioning and evaluating community health programs and activities. The community-as-partner model, as conceived by Judith Anderson, is modified for the Australian and New Zealand environment to provide a stronger emphasis on working with local communities to address their identified healthcare issues and problems. To achieve this we draw upon Kristine Battye's model of environmental scanning while retaining Anderson's construct of the Community Access Wheel.

Part III examines identified vulnerable groups that community nurses commonly work with in Australian and New Zealand society. The key areas covered include young children and schools, workplace groups, older adults, people living with a chronic

condition, Indigenous communities, refugees and immigrants, and rural populations. A separate chapter on mental health promotion is also provided. The text discriminates towards positive partnerships between these communities and the community nurse by highlighting successful initiatives underpinned by collaborative relationships.

There are a number of different titles given to nurses working in the community. These may include community nurse, community health nurse, domiciliary nurse, public health nurse, family and child health nurse, and maternal and child health nurse. The term *community nursing* is used in this book to describe the work of nurses engaged in activities to promote wellbeing with individuals, groups and populations in a community practice context and includes all of the variations listed above.

In the process of adapting *Community as Partner* we have searched the literature and spoken to many community nurses to find examples of health promotion programs and activities that illustrate the theoretical messages the text conveys. There are many excellent primary healthcare programs and activities in Australia and New Zealand, and we would like to acknowledge and thank all those people involved in the inspirational work we have included in this text.

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Our colleague Ken Sellick was a member of the original adaptation team when we first decided to adapt *Community as Partner* and worked on plans for the new work. We mourn the passing of Ken who remains in our hearts and minds. Ken advised on and contributed to the original adaptation of the book, specifically Chapter 2: Epidemiology, demography and community health; Chapter 14: Evaluating a community health program; Chapter 17: Promoting healthy partnerships with older people; and Chapter 20: Mental health promotion. We would also like to recognise the assistance provided by Andrew Crowther from Charles Sturt University and Megan Coyle who assisted with updating information in a number of the chapters.

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