



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **“Tides of Change” 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nurses, Midwives & Health Visitors Conference – Gibraltar Health Authority**

The Gibraltar Health Authority is pleased to announce its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Nursing, Midwifery & Health Visiting conference which will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in John Mackintosh Hall. The aim is to give those working in the professions the opportunity to share with each other examples of best practice and innovative initiatives for improving patient care.

The conference will be opened by the Minister for Health and Chairwoman of the GHA, The Honourable Yvette Del Agua who said “I am very much looking forward to opening this important conference. Nurses, Midwives & Health Visitors are playing an increasingly crucial role in reforming and modernising health services in Gibraltar. They are at the frontline of healthcare and have very direct contact with patients. The presentations and posters illustrate the significant improvements that are being made in patient care as a result of their efforts and commitment to continually improve healthcare practices.

A speech, developing the conference theme, “Tides of Change” will be given by Dr Karen Norman.

Practitioners from across Gibraltar working in different specialities will be presenting 17 different workshops for participants to choose from. These include presentations from the Elderly Care Agency which will be called “The Therapeutic Environment”, St Bernadette’s which will cover “The Aims and Objectives of St Bernadette’s Occupational Therapy centre”, Isobel Ellul – Hammond on “The importance of Breast Awareness” and the Ophthalmic Department in the GHA on “Advancements in Cataract Surgery”.

Dr David McCutcheon, Chief Executive of the GHA, will giving the awards for the best poster presentations which will be on exhibition throughout the day and he will present the closing plenary address entitled “New possibilities for nursing disciplines within the GHA”. Dr McCutcheon will relate the

developments associated with the Government's Health Manifesto to opportunities for new roles and practice within the GHA.

The conference planning committee has aspired to attain the high standard set in previous years. The larger venue has been booked this year in order to accommodate the increasing attendance, (last year saw an excess of 200 participants).

To ensure wards and departments are adequately staffed and to enable the most participants to attend, the same programme will be repeated on both dates.

Nurses working in Gibraltar for other agencies are also welcome to attend and can book places through Natalie Alvarez, Nursing Administration, St Bernard's Hospital, 200 72266 Ext 2316.