Research to address nurse shortage
The training and job decisions of nurses

Where is the project up to? To date, 678 nursing students and new graduates have completed the first online survey and 264 have completed the second survey. We are about to commence the third survey; if you completed Survey 2 a year ago, you will soon receive an email. Recruitment began in 2008 and will end this year. Although nearly 2000 nursing students and graduates have joined the study, many have yet to complete the first survey. We encourage anyone who has not yet completed the first survey to do so. Thank you to everyone who has participated, so far.

Results from the study: We began analysing data from the first survey, one year after it opened. We have included some of these results in previous newsletters. We have also presented at conferences and written several papers. The first paper which describes the study methods is available on the project web page http://datasearch.uts.edu.au/chere/projects/showcase.html. Three papers have been submitted to academic journals and are still undergoing review. We will post information about the journal papers on the project web page when they are published. The papers are about:

- the job preferences of nursing students and new graduates,
- the satisfaction of students and graduates with nursing education, and
- methods for measuring preferences.

Some preliminary results from Survey 2: Of the 260 respondents in the initial Survey 2 dataset, 125 were graduates and 129 students. Eighty-six of the graduates had completed their studies since the first survey. Of 6 who had withdrawn without completing the BN, 5 withdrew between the first and second surveys. Students withdrew from the BN for different reasons including: didn’t like nursing, had difficulty managing family and study, became pregnant or not ready for study.

Overall 83% of the Survey 2 respondents were working (73% of students and 94% of graduates). 90% of graduates were working as nurses; most (70%) were working in a public hospital. The most common types of nursing were: adult medical/surgical (32%), critical care/accident and emergency (13%) and operating theatre/anaesthetics/recovery (11%).

It is important that we stay in touch for future surveys. If your email address changes, please let us know. Email nurses@chere.uts.edu.au or phone Patsy Kenny 02 95144750