

## Nurse Practitioners value their CDE credential

Nurses who have gained Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) and Nurse Practitioner (NP) qualifications demonstrate that they have a high level of commitment to the provision of evidence based holistic diabetes care.

There are many reasons why a nurse chooses to undertake post graduate education to become a NP. Many NPs consider their NP qualification as the most valuable clinical qualification to achieve for nurses wanting to remain practising in the clinical setting, rather than in a management or research role. In addition, this qualification broadens the nurse's scope of practice and legalises some areas of advanced nursing practice including prescribing medications, ordering pathology and other diagnostic test and referring clients to other health professionals. The ability to undertake these tasks allows NPs to work autonomously and provide a more comprehensive service to a variety of clients. This qualification therefore is highly valued, especially in rural and remote areas where access to GPs or specialist services are limited.

The NP qualification is a broad nursing qualification that does not necessarily have a focus on diabetes education and management. NPs working in the diabetes field often have a chronic disease management practice context. The Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) qualification and the ongoing membership of the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) demonstrates a high commitment to ongoing learning and development in the area specifically relating to diabetes education and management. It offers the assurance to people with diabetes, their families, carers and health care providers that they are receiving quality education and advice in diabetes education, management and care. The ADEA credentialling process provides professional recognition that the nurse practitioner CDE has up to date advanced evidence based knowledge in diabetes education and management.

The significance of being a CDE for nurse practitioners:

“I wanted to fulfil the highest level of RN CDE. I believe the credential of CDE is a demonstration of having achieved the ongoing professional development and clinical work to achieve this desired credential.” **Libby Bancroft**

“I am proud to be part of a professional body that maintains scope of practice and policies, procedures and guidelines that are evidenced based and up to date.” **Maxine Schlaepfi**

“I became a CDE long before I became a NP. I became a CDE and remain a CDE as I valued the fact that I was working towards a set standard of care” **Giuliana Murfet**

“To be able to work at a higher level of capability and be an expert in diabetes. To provide personalised diabetes education and care, empower people with diabetes and provide quality diabetes education and advice. To be able to support patients to make changes toward a healthier lifestyle”. **Sylvia Mallo**