



## **Unique Education & Training Opportunity for Perioperative Nurses in 2015**

### **Certificate of Proficiency**

#### **Registered Nurse: Assistant to the Anaesthetist (RNAA)**

In 2015, Auckland University of Technology (AUT) will be piloting a Certificate of Proficiency: Registered Nurse Assistant to the Anaesthetist paper (pending AUT Board approval). This paper builds upon holistic comprehensive nursing knowledge in the field of anaesthetic assistance and incorporates the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (2012) PS08 document 'Recommendations on the Assistant to the Anaesthetist'.

The RNAA paper will appeal to perioperative nurses wishing to gain a portable nursing qualification through a Nursing Council of New Zealand post graduate programme. Auckland University of Technology is ideally placed to deliver this paper due to their national standing in both nursing education and anaesthetic technology education.

Auckland University of Technology is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Roz Sorensen who is project managing the course design with anaesthetist support from Dr Maureen Bassili and Dr Rose Duckett. Sian Mitchell RN (DipAppSciAT) who has extensive experience in assisting the anaesthetist, will also be contributing to course design and delivery.

The RNAA paper will be delivered through AUT's post graduate nursing programme and will have a combination of blended on-line learning, work based mentorship and a block course. There is a triple strategy assessment approach through theoretical assessment, a competency assessment workbook and OSCE (observed structured clinical examination).

Nurses enrolling in the RNAA paper require workplace support from their Perioperative Nursing Manager and the Chief Anaesthetist. It is recommended that nurses new to the RNAA field, work 30 hours a week in the RNAA role during the duration of the course. However, there are provisions for recognition of prior experience for nurses with more than 1 year full time equivalent RNAA experience.

Nurses interested in the RNAA paper are able to apply now to Auckland University of Technology. This ensures that nurses have an AUT student ID to enable them to enrol in the RNAA paper in January 2015, ready for beginning the course in semester one. For information on applying to AUT go to [www.aut.ac.nz](http://www.aut.ac.nz) and follow the Quick Link 'Apply to AUT'.

Nurses employed in District Health Boards are able to access Health Workforce New Zealand funding, if their employer includes the RNAA paper in their list of priorities. The Perioperative Nurses College has approached Health Workforce New Zealand regarding funding the paper for nurses working in the private sector and is awaiting further correspondence.

For general information on RNAA knowledge and skills criteria and workforce issues refer to the 'Registered Nurse Assistant to the Anaesthetist' link on [www.pnc.org.nz](http://www.pnc.org.nz). To make enquires about the Certificate of Proficiency RNAA course please contact Dr David Healee, Postgraduate Head of Health Care Practice at the Auckland University of Technology. Email: [david.healee@aut.ac.nz](mailto:david.healee@aut.ac.nz)