International Nurses Day - 12 May

*International Nurses Day (IND)* is celebrated around the world on 12 May yearly, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has celebrated this day since 1965.

*Nurses have 4 fundamental responsibilities*

- Promote health,
- Prevent illness,
- Restore health and
- Alleviate suffering

Nurses are essential partners to secure and provide care effectively in a cost effective health systems. In 2015 nurses are called to mobilise individually and collectively to achieve quality of care and patient safety in a cost effective way.

**How do I mobilise?**

- **In the clinical setting**
  - Find out the cost of essential supplies & equipment used in your setting.
  - Gather information with regard to the main reasons for wasting of health resources in your setting.
  - Discuss / ponder what nurses can do to reduce the cost of health care in your setting and to reduce wastage & improve efficiency.

- **At national level**
  - Use your experience & insights, learn the language of economists and target arguments towards the Ministry of Finance, Health & relevant private sector

  - Look for ideas / additional information at [www.ocsa.co.za](http://www.ocsa.co.za) or directly from [www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch)

**ICN THEMES FOR INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAYS**

- 1988 - Safe Motherhood
- 1989 - School Health
- 1990 - Nurses and Environment
- 1991 - Mental Health - Nurses in Action
- 1992 - Healthy Aging
- 1993 - Quality, costs and Nursing
- 1994 - Healthy Families for Healthy Nation
- 1995 - Women’s Health: Nurses Pave the Way
- 1996 - Better Health through Nursing Research
- 1997 - Healthy Young People = A Brighter Future
- 1998 - Partnership for Community Health
- 1999 - Celebrating Nursing’s Past, claiming the future
- 2000 – Nurses Always there For You (NATFY)
- 2001 - NATFY: United Against Violence
- 2002 - NATFY: Caring for Families
- 2003 - NATFY Fighting AIDS stigma, working for all
- 2004 – NATFY Working with the Poor; Against Poverty
- 2005 - Targeting counterfeit and substandard medicines
- 2006 - Safe staffing saves lives
- 2007 - Positive practice environments: Quality workplaces = quality patient care
- 2008 - Delivering Quality, Serving Communities (DQSC): Nurses Leading Primary Health Care
- 2009 - DQSC Nurses Leading Care Innovations
- 2010 – DQSC Nurses Leading Chronic Care
- 2011 - Closing The Gap (CTG): Increase Access and Equity
- 2012 – CTG From Evidence to Action
- 2013 - CTG Millennium Development Goals
- 2014 – Nurses: A Force for Change: A vital force for health
- 2015 - Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective
We would like to salute and thank all our nurses that contribute to OCSA’s wealth of knowledge, commitment, quality and standards. You are the backbone of our company and we are proud of you.

We challenge each and every one to commit themselves to the 2015 theme **NURSES: A FORCE FOR CHANGE: CARE EFFECTIVE, COST EFFECTIVE**

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**References:**
International Council of Nurses www.ic.ch