

Sahn Zanotti – Acting Clinical Nurse Educator St. George Hospital Emergency Department



What motivated you to join the Nightingale challenge?

As a younger nurse starting my career, a large part of joining the challenge was that I am curious to connect with other areas of nursing to see what they are doing and what I can learn from them. My understanding is the Nightingale Challenge is trying to create a movement to support and enable growth and development for nurses. Given it is the year of the nurse and midwife it seemed a good opportunity to be part of this.

What do you hope to get from your leadership program and how have you achieved this so far?

I am enrolled in the Future Clinical Nurse Educators Program at St. George Hospital. I hope to achieve the support and guidance to help me transition into a role that I'm excited about and something that I'm capable of and hopefully able to do so successfully. I really want to influence and be a good role model to junior nurses to help them embrace good nursing practices. I hope this will create a culture where senior staff can provide support to junior nurses also. When I was younger and unsure I always liked that I could go and ask for help and support from senior staff. I still look for guidance and support from senior nurses particularly nurse educators and Clinical Nurse Consultants and I look to them as role models.

How do you hope to influence nursing and midwifery at your site and how do you think this could translate on a global scale?

Going into the role what I'm hoping to do is influence nurses on the floor and be a good role model to them. Provide support to them so when we're not available they are able to use their own critical

thinking to make decisions, and role model good behaviours. I am an approachable person and I have an open door policy. I encourage nurses to come and talk to me if they have a problem. I'm also not afraid to ask for support and seek guidance from others when I need to. I encourage this with my peers. On a global scale particularly under the current climate with Covid – 19, I believe upskilling of nurses during this time is significant so they have the skills to do their job in this climate. I think it's important to create a positive work environment and have a united front. This will hopefully influence the health care industry and this will be transferred to the patients and the community.

How can Senior Nursing & Midwifery leaders support your leadership development in the future?

I would say they have done a good job thus far. What has worked well is having managers that listen to your concerns. Having access to study days and ongoing professional development is really important. We have a lot of options with access to online learning. We have also been informed about free courses and webinars available which allow for flexibility to have access to these courses not just at work but in the home which is significant for me. Having a regular appraisal is really important as it helps to keep you on track with what you actually need to build on your skill and improve in your work.