

## Visit to the Seychelles Autumn 2012

Kate Woodhead and Lesley Fudge from Friends of African Nursing visited Victoria Hospital, Mahé during November 2012 to deliver a four-day perioperative theory update programme to a group of 42 nurses. Their experience ranged from a few months since qualification to many years of service. Not all were from a perioperative background but they had an interest in the patient's surgical journey; the lead Infection Control nurse was present and the Theatre Manager from Victoria Hospital.



The programme sought to provide evidence based knowledge and skills themed around the environment, personal issues, patient care and safety and the perioperative team.

A visit was made to the Operating Theatres in Victoria Hospital at the beginning of the week, by Kate and Lesley, as well as to Sterile Services.

The programme was kindly opened by the Minister of Health and the Chief Nursing Officer, Registrar of the Nurses Council and the Chief Surgeon were in attendance. They were warmly thanked for their time. It was noted during the ceremony that we were making history – this being the first ever programme of perioperative education to be held in The Seychelles.

The delegates were very keen to learn and as this was the first opportunity that many had had to attend on-going education, they were very attentive. There was a lot of noise and fun over the week, with delegates putting themselves forward to present workshop feedback and the programme evaluated very well.

We were included in a TV interview about the education which was shown on national news and reported in the national paper, so we had a very high profile, as well as a mention in parliament (and a round of applause!) when the Minister of Health was answering a question regarding nursing education.



Additional advice was given regarding architectural plans for the re-design of main theatres, ophthalmic theatres and sterile services.

A large number of donated books were able to be given to the Operating theatres, to provide them with a library to support future developments. A report has been sent to the Chief Nurse and they are currently meeting to discuss implementation plans from the recommendations.

The Seychelles were very keen that Friends of African Nursing return for future visits, which it is hoped that they will fund. Negotiations are on-going.

Kate Woodhead