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| **Title of Innovation in policy and practice presentation** (Sentence case)The HealthWISE Primary Health Care Nursing program; Education, Promotion and Screening in rural NSW |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Setting/problem**The Primary Health Care Nursing (PCHN) program in rural areas of North West NSW, Australia aims to address health inequity and overcome barriers to accessing health such as low levels of health literacy, isolation, low social-economic status, higher than state and national levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, cost, lack of transport, lack of health services and poor access to the internet. Higher than state and national levels of many chronic diseases occur in the HealthWISE service area Health promotion, education and screening is delivered in partnership with the communities and stakeholders. The PHCN program supports the health of residents in communities of 2000 people or less.. **Intervention**The program is supported by federal government funding through the Hunter New England Primary Health Network. Primary Health Care Nurses are registered and enrolled nurse who maintain registration and possess the qualifications and skill to provide expert clinical care, education and advice. PHCNs work with community and other stakeholders to provide and maintain access to health screening, health education and health promotion services designed to promote health and wellbeing and build community capacity. Services include skin cancer screening, general health checks, education on women’s and men’s health education and puberty education in schools.**Outcomes**In 2017-18 our 4 PHCNs delivered 205 health promotion, education and screening events against an annual target of 200 events. 5,941 people participated. Participants identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander made up 20% of the total. 50 communities participated. Communities and individual participants are encouraged to adopt or modify behaviours to better manage their health and wellbeing, and improve health literacy. Participants’ experience and outcomes are measured through pre and post questionnaires. Participants report a high level of satisfaction with the program and particularly appreciate the PHCNs bringing the services into their small communities.**Implications**Improved access to primary health care services including linkages to service providers, education, health promotion and screening services for people living in rural and remote communities can lead to positive outcomes for health. **Preferred presentation format**The presentation will be in the format of a 10 minute oral presentation followed by 5 minutes Q & A. The oral presentation will be supported by a power point presentation and E-poster.  |