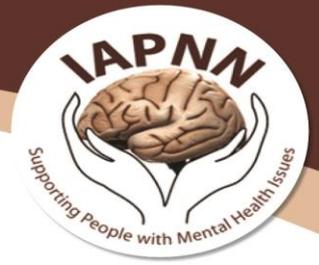


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHIATRIC NURSES OF NIGERIA

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The **International Association of Psychiatric Nurses of Nigeria (IAPNN)** held her 9th Annual International Conference at the Alfred Hospital Melbourne Victoria, Australia from 7th to 10th of April 2015. The theme of the conference was “*Mental Illness: Supporting the clients and the carers*”. The conference was attended by delegates from several countries including Nigeria, South Africa, Australia, United Kingdom, United States, Canada and the UAE. The key note address was delivered by the President of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses. There were several other presentations from clinicians, Academics, consumer and carer representatives.

The key themes that emerged from the Conference include the following;

1. Mental illness still poses a significant challenge to the wellbeing of several people across the World and Nigeria in particular. The burden of mental illness is felt not just by the consumers but also the carers
2. There is an urgent need to improve the treatment of people with a mental illness and bring them in line with current recovery oriented practice that is occurring globally.
3. There is need for continued education and training for mental health professionals in line with contemporary practices.
4. There is a need to increase the amount of support given to informal carers of people with mental illnesses often they are the forgotten ones. Carers (formal and informal) and consumers need to be involved in service delivery and policy developments.
5. The conference calls on Government and relevant key stakeholder to allocate resources to fight against stigma directed towards consumers and carers of people with a mental illness. It was noted that stigma has a significant impact on the health seeking behaviours of people with a mental illness and their families.
6. Nursing and midwifery education should be targeted to providing holistic care and support to people living with a mental illness.

President,
IAPNN
10th April 2015