

**Rapp, Jill**

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**From:** Tony Ziegeler [rasputinau@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2002 7:35 PM  
**To:** Review of MHA  
**Subject:** Introduction

To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Tony Ziegeler and I am currently working as a psychiatric nurse in the Ngaanytjarra Lands of Nth East Western Australia, between the Northern Territory border and Kalgoorlie. I am employed by Ngaanytjarra Health Services. This is a new position which was created in Februrary of this year. Prior to this I worked as a Mental Health Nurse at Woomera Detention Centre for one year and before that I was employed in Geelong, Victoria, at the acute psychiatric unit for 18 years in the Triage area.

While working on the lands the major concern for me has been, that I have had to contact the R.F.D.S. Doctor for medications in some emergency situations. With no offence to the Doctors, I have found it difficult to argue my case because of their lack (in some cases) of knowledege in mental health.

What I would like to see is that, mental health nurses in remote settings, not prescribe, but be able to give psychotropic drugs in emergency situations. I understand that the nurse would have to be confident and competent in their practice and have knowledege of medications, to be able to give these drugs and to know their uses and side effects etc. Perhaps a 1-2 weeks 'workshop', simular to the Authorised Mental Health Practitioners course (or attached to this) to 'test' their competency skills, and level of knowledge in these types of situations and at the end of these 'workshops', the nurse could be registered (as with AMHP's) to be able to 'prescribe' these medications.

I am looking forward to the review of the Mental Health Act and all that this encompasses and I am happy to participate in any way in this review. If you have any questions or you wish to contact me any further on this or any other subject. please feel free to contact me at the above e-mail address or Phone and Fax No: (08) 89562839

Yours sincerely,  
Tony Ziegeler,  
AMHP, RPN, CNS

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