

From the Book Review Editor

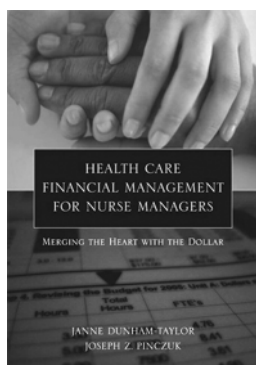
OCCASIONALLY THERE ARE books which come across my desk that are difficult to either put down or send off to other reviewers to appraise. Over the last few months, three books in particular fit perfectly into both categories. In appreciation of the value of these texts, I have decided to review them myself. These three books would make an excellent addition to any home or work library.

*Health care financial management for nurse managers.
Merging the heart with the dollar*

Janne Dunham-Taylor and Joseph Z Pinczuk (editors)

Jones and Bartlett, 2006

ISBN: 0 7637 3149 8. RRP: \$98



THE PLEASING ASPECT of this book is that it goes much broader than the title implies. The opening statement sums up the text nicely: "Every management decision has financial implications — every financial decision has management implications!" The book looks broadly at

health management and its link to financial viability. Subject areas include excellent chapters and sections on leadership and organisational strategy, ethics in nursing administration, information systems, budgeting principles and strategies, finance and accounting issues, and determining and evaluating staff. The editors have included useful definition boxes, case studies and web links.

The thing that pleases me about this book is that it could easily be used as a management text. While many books over the years have separated out finance from general management, the editors of this book should be congratulated on successfully marrying the two to form a more than useful desktop companion.

My only criticisms of the text, and they are minor, are that firstly, being an American text, a number of the examples only have specific application to the US health system. I would suggest,

however, that there is more than enough in this book of benefit to Australian and New Zealand readers. Secondly, the book title suggests that it is primarily aimed at the nursing sector. This is a little unfortunate, as there is much to gain from this book for health service managers from other disciplines. Overall, a very useable and well written text.

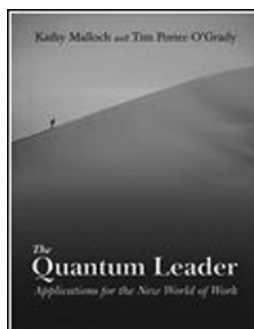
Reviewer rating: ★★★★★

The quantum leader: applications for the new world of work

Kathy Malloch and Tim Porter-O'Grady

Jones and Bartlett, 2005

ISBN: 0 7637 2912 4. RRP: \$77.50



THIS BOOK IS A MUST for those health managers looking to develop new strategies for leading in today's complex and rapidly adapting health care environment. The text covers topics such as leading in a new age; the vulnerable leader; the fully engaged leader;

creating a culture of safety; the leader as mentor and coach; leading with courage, leadership and care of self; and finally, turning toxic behaviours into transformational actions. The text provides readers with excellent descriptions, illustrations and exercises. The text challenges leaders to look to new solutions to managing in the current and sometimes difficult health sector.

The publication comes with expansive appendices that allow the reader to evaluate their own leadership style and develop new techniques and approaches to understanding themselves and leading others. It is as much a workbook as it is a reference guide for today's health managers and leaders. The text is clearly written and backs this up with highlighted summaries and key points to remember. Additionally, the authors have done a superb job in providing the reader with a wide range of supplementary readings. This book is highly recommended for readers who want to challenge and explore their current leadership style and are looking to find a range of strategies to assist them in the "new world of work".

Reviewer rating: ★★★★★

Communicating in the health and social sciences

Joy Higgs, Ann Sefton, Annette Street, Lindy McAllister and
Iain Hay

Oxford University Press, 2005

ISBN: 0 19 551698 2. RRP: \$39.95

THIS BOOK is a handy addition to any library, whether you are a student or practitioner. This reference text is divided into three key sections. The first section deals with communicating in academic and fieldwork settings. It gives clear, helpful advice on studying, learning academic writing, writing journal articles and theses, writing reports and communicating with the community, just to name a few. The second section covers presentation styles, skills and strategies. This section addresses key issues around preparing graphics and posters, giving

talks in classes or conferences, and how to prepare PowerPoint presentations. The third section provides information on interpersonal communication. The areas covered include leading groups and meetings, talking with colleagues and patients, working with groups, intercultural communication, giving feedback, and working as a member of a community health team.

Each chapter provides a clear "key topics" area, useful case studies and handy hints. This reference would see most readers through their university studies as well as being an aide memoir in their transition into work. The text covers all major areas of communicating as a health practitioner. An excellent text with wide application. The added bonus is that it is an Australian publication.

Reviewer rating: ★★★★★



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