



Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council

NATIONAL NURSING & NURSING EDUCATION TASKFORCE

2006 ARCHIVED NEWS & UPDATES

Note: All publications referred to below are available for downloading from the Publications web page.

August 2006

Aug 15th: Further N³ET Reports Now Available!

- The work on Recommendation 25 has been completed and the two reports prepared for the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council on (1) Scholarships and (2) Re-entry have now been accepted and are now available for dissemination to N³ET stakeholders.
- Following a period of consultation, the final version of the **National Specialisation Framework for Nursing and Midwifery** is now available.

Aug 10th: Recommendations 7/35 Report Available!

The **Implementing minimum qualifications and suitability checks for the direct care workforce** report is now available.

The findings of this report stem from two phases of work conducted by the Taskforce on care workers for a national nomenclature, minimum Certificate III qualifications from the Health or Community Services Training Packages and suitability checks for unregulated Direct Care Workers (DCWs) by 2008.

July 2006

July 24th: National Nurse Prescribing Glossary

National Nurse Prescribing Glossary (NNPG) and Taxonomy of Nurse Prescribing and Initiating is now available. It provides a comprehensive and contemporary picture of nurse prescribing and nurse and midwife initiating practices, captured at a point in time when nurse prescribing is developing nationally. It includes 18 terms associated with the initiating and prescribing of medicines by nurses and midwives and a taxonomy for classification of initiating and prescribing models nationally.

July 13th - QUT receives ARC grant for Nurse Practitioner (NP) project

The National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET) congratulates the research team based at Queensland University of Technology for their success in the recent round of Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkages Project grants. The project team will undertake a three-year study into nurse practitioners (NPs) entitled "Reforming healthcare: Nurse Practitioners and workforce re-design". The study will be a unique opportunity to profile the progress, process and outcomes of nurse practitioner service nationally.

The research team of:

- Professor Glenn Gardner (Queensland University of Technology)
- Associate Professor Anne Gardner (Deakin University)
- Professor Sandy Middleton (Australian Catholic University National (NSW), and
- Dr Phil Della (Health Department of Western Australia)

will join with the Chief Nurses, N³ET and Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council as "industry" partners, to undertake this important health service research.

In ARC Linkage Projects, collaborating organisations and partner organisations provide support (financial and/or in kind) to the research team, thus fostering links between universities and industry. The considerable work undertaken by N³ET over the past two years into NPs will provide a valuable resource for the researchers.

July 12th: Progress on Recommendation 4 - Nationally Consistent Scope of Practice

There have been a number of important developments over recent weeks on Recommendation 4, including:

- Position Statement - A National Professional Practice Framework: An alternative to a National Decision Making Framework
- Agreement on Seven Key Points following the Legislation and Regulation of Nursing and Midwifery Practice in Australia Round Table Discussion Meeting held 22 June 2006 in Melbourne
- Towards Consistent Regulation of Nursing and Midwifery: A selective analysis of the legislation and professional regulation of nursing and midwifery in Australia (2006) report

Please refer to the [Publications](#) web page to receive detailed information on the above, and to obtain a copy of these publications.

July 7th: Governance Standards for Nursing & Midwifery Organisations - Report & Toolkit

The Taskforce funded the National Nursing Organisations to undertake a project on Governance Standards. The result is an important and unique governance framework for nursing and midwifery organisations.

For your copy of the ***Governance Standards for Nursing and Midwifery Organisations***, and the accompanying Toolkit, please go to the [Publications](#) web page.

July 4th: Pathways to Progress Nurse Practitioners (NPs)

An interim report on Report on Recommendation 12, National Review of Nursing Education (2002) – Our Duty of Care – Maximising Education Pathways for Nurses and Midwives.

Ten principles have been developed to drive greater national consistency in the educational pathways for nurse practitioners in Australia. They are intended to give direction with supporting rationale to all jurisdictions, not only those yet to implement the NP role. It builds upon the recognised diversity in the Australian health workforce and in particular the career and lifestyle choices of nurses and midwives. The principles acknowledge that Australia is in a transitional phase at present, but that it is timely to focus on consistent national direction, one that firmly positions the role for the next decade.

In 2005, N³ET convened five Work Groups to undertake work on Recommendation 12. The purpose of the work groups was to bring together representatives of the key stakeholder groups to work collaboratively and assist in strategically addressing education needs of the future in a flexible and collaborative manner by proposing strategies and approaches to address the limitations of existing articulation pathways for nurses and midwives; and developing nationally consistent approaches to recognition of prior learning and current competence in enrolment processes for nurses and health care workers.

One work group was asked to consider **educational pathways for NPs in Australia** and to identify issues stemming from differences in levels/requirements for educational preparation and identify strategies, options and opportunities for greater national consistency in the educational preparation of nurse practitioners. The working group met between September 2005 and March 2006. It considered a range of issues related to issues stemming from differences in levels/requirements for educational preparation and identified strategies, options and opportunities for greater national consistency in the educational preparation of nurse practitioners.

In particular, ten principles have been developed that should be adopted by jurisdictions when making decisions about the minimum educational requirements for recognition as an NP.

These principles will ensure that:

- Diverse and inclusive pathways to NP level are available
- Greater national consistency in entry to practice educational requirements for NP is achieved, and
- A balance is reached between an educational level that engenders public confidence and one that is able to justify a direct link between the restrictions imposed and harm reduction.

June 2006

June 28th: N³ET Myth Busters

The fourth in the series - interprofessional education and practice - is now available!

The purpose of a Myth Buster is to explore commonly held views/beliefs. In this case, N³ET Myth Busters examine views/beliefs that may be restricting health workforce debate and reforms. The N³ET Myth Busters are a series of short research essays that are targeted to review and redress the evidence base for a specific belief. The fourth of the series is now available. Please distribute this important piece of work to your colleagues.

MYTH: Interprofessional education and practice, a nice idea but it doesn't work

FACT: There is increasing evidence that interprofessional education and practice results in positive outcomes

June 7th: An Atlas of Legislation & Professional Regulation of Nursing & Midwifery in Australia

As part of the work on Recommendations 4, 5 and 6 from the National Review of Nursing Education (2002) Our Duty of Care report, the N³ET has completed an extensive mapping of the legislation and professional regulation of nursing and midwifery practice across Australia.

The Atlas provides a detailed and contemporary snapshot of the similarities and differences in legislation and policy that supports particular aspects of the professional regulation of nurses and midwives in each of the jurisdictions in Australia.

Our thanks to the State and Territory Regulatory Authorities and the Chief Nurses for their valuable contribution to this project.

June 1st: Message from the Chair

Most recent Message from the Chair of the National Nursing & Nursing Education Taskforce now available: http://www.nnnet.gov.au/downloads/chair_0606.pdf

Commonwealth funding for clinical practicum

The Commonwealth Funding for Clinical Practicum report is a report on Commonwealth funding to support clinical practicum for undergraduate nurses and midwives in Australia (Recommendation 24: National Review of Nursing Education (2002) Our Duty of Care report).

This report shows that as nursing is a National Priority Area in education for the Australian community, it is essential that additional Commonwealth funding to nursing programs is continued and forms a permanent part of the baseline funding for this discipline cluster, so that the higher education sector can continue to educate nurses in light of predicted demand.

As the costs of clinical practicum continue to spiral, more detailed review of the baseline level of funding is merited to arrive at a sustainable funding level that balances the pedagogical needs of students with the regulatory requirements for licensing and the work readiness concerns of employers. Clearly the needs of health consumers should also have a voice in this dialectic. In the complex interface between health and education, it is likely that funding policy will form one strand of a strategic approach to clinical practicum for undergraduate nurses. There would also be benefit in unpacking the complex and interrelated factors driving the spiralling costs of nursing programs.

To view the report or for more information click here:
http://www.nnnet.gov.au/downloads/rec24_clinicalpracticum.pdf

Solution Seekers - Highlight of the Month: Enhanced community health services for the Cobram District community

The project was developed at Cobram District Hospital due to the lack of community based health services offered to the community. The Hospital had been committed to an acute focus with little health promotion, illness prevention and care for people in their own homes. For more information, go to the N³ET web site: <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/>

If you or your organisation is working on an innovative project, N³ET strongly encourages you to share this with the Australian nursing/midwifery community through the N³ET Solution Seekers site, you can submit an abstract online today or contact Erin Statz from the [N³ET Secretariat](#).

May 2006

May 19th: Specialisation Framework

Deakin University have completed their work on a Specialisation Framework and a summary of the methodology used, the criteria for a specialty that were developed and the subsequent areas identified as national specialties are now available on the N³ET website. To access a copy of the document go to the [Publications Page](#). N³ET is seeking comments on the framework until 19th of June 2006.

N³ET Position Statement on Nurse Practitioners

The use of clinical practice guidelines (CPG) by nurse practitioners has been considered by N³ET. A statement about how CPGs should be employed to ensure they contribute to quality outcomes but do not unduly restrict how nurse practitioners (NP) practice is now available.

May 9th: Media and Communication Principles Nursing and Midwifery

Media and Communication Principles Nursing and Midwifery have changed considerably over the last 50 years.

Developments in technology, shifting community demographics, the move to university education and the emergence of new allied health roles have all contributed to the constantly evolving role of nurses and midwives in the community.

The value, contribution and benefits of a nursing or midwifery career need to be promoted to improve the portrayal of and communications about nursing and midwifery in the future .

The National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET) worked with a group of media and communications experts to develop a set of communication principles and a national marketing profile (brand) for nursing and midwifery for this purpose. The aim of these principles is to inform and inspire those responsible for portraying nurses and midwives in communications media.

For more information and the Media and Communication Principles click here: http://www.nnnet.gov.au/downloads/rec9_commprinciples.pdf

March Progress Report now available

Click here to view the latest Taskforce progress report: <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/work/progress.htm>

May 1st: Solution Seekers - Highlight of the Month: Clinical Leadership Programme in Australia (TM) Head Office

The Clinical Leadership Programme provides a credible, well researched and evaluated vehicle to assist participants to develop leadership qualities which translate into safe quality health care practice. The Clinical Leadership Programme is designed, developed and supported by the Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom. For more information, go to the N³ET web site: <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/>

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April 2006

April 19th: N³ET Myth Busters

The third in the series - maternity services - is now available!

The purpose of a Myth Buster is to explore commonly held views/beliefs. In this case, N³ET Myth Busters examine views/beliefs that may be restricting health workforce debate and reforms. The N³ET Myth Busters are a series of short research essays that are targeted to review and redress the evidence base for a specific belief. The third of the series is now available. Please distribute this important piece of work to your colleagues.

MYTH: Current maternity services in Australia meet the needs of all women

FACT: Choice of maternity care services are limited by many factors

April 11th: Solution Seekers - Highlight of the Month: ACT Inter-professional Learning Project

The ACT Inter-professional learning (IPL) project aims to engage a wide range of health professionals, academics, and health educators across the disciplines of nursing, midwifery, medicine and allied health, to develop and implement a model of clinical education underpinned by the principles of inter-professional learning. For more information, go to the N³ET web site: <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/>

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The N³ET has moved!

The N³ET is hosted by the Department of Human Services Victoria (DHS). DHS is currently relocating head office staff to the one location at 50 Lonsdale Street. This co-location provides head office staff with greater opportunity to meet, collaborate, and interact with colleagues within one location. Check out our new street address and phone numbers by visiting the [Contact Us](#) page.

March 2006

March 23rd: N³ET Timeline, see what it is we are working on!

To learn more about N³ET projects that are winding up in the next few months, detailed information can be found on the individual project pages that are linked to the Time Line or located through the left navigation bar under the heading of Work of the Taskforce.

Is your practice advanced, enhanced, maximised, extended, or expanded?

What's the difference, are any of these terms the same?

If you are confused about what these terms might mean and whether they are used the same way in other areas, other organisations or even other states you should read the Specialisation and Advanced Practice Discussion Paper just released by N³ET.

N³ET is interested in your response to the issues raised in this paper and so there is an opportunity for you to respond the paper by completing a feedback form.

February Newsletter now available

In this edition:

- Busy times, the N³ET projects and timelines
- Communication and media principles - the image of nursing & midwifery
- Governance standards for nursing and midwifery organisations
- Nurse practitioner - multiple works
- N³ET Myth Busters - why look at nursing & midwifery myths?
- Research and research training for nurses and midwives
- N³ET Solution Seekers - New highlight of the month
- N³ET Conference Watch - upcoming events!

March 7th: Publications

To view a complete list of publications arising from work of the Taskforce, visit our new [Publications](#) page today!

<http://www.nnnet.gov.au/publications>

N³ET Conference Watch

There are many new and exciting conferences and events that have been added to the N³ET Conference Watch page. To find out what is happening around Australia, visit N³ET Conference Watch. If you have a conference or event that you'd like to add to this site, please contact Erin Statz from the N³ET Secretariat.

Solution Seekers - Highlight of the Month: Collaborative Clinical Education Epworth Deakin (CCEED)

In a recent Australian report on health workforce, the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery identified a shortage of clinical placements that adequately prepare nursing students for registration (Productivity Commission, 2005). A key recommendation was that Epworth and Deakin work collaboratively to find strategies to smooth student transition while managing the impacts on care delivery and team functioning. For more information, go to the N3ET web site: <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/>

If you or your organisation is working on an innovative project, N³ET strongly encourages you to share this with the Australian nursing/midwifery community through the N³ET Solution Seekers site, you can submit an abstract online today or contact Erin Statz from the [N³ET Secretariat](#).

February 2006

February 10th: N³ET Myth Busters

The second in the series - nurse practitioner - is now available!

The purpose of a Myth Buster is to explore commonly held views/beliefs. In this case, N³ET Myth Busters examine views/beliefs that may be restricting health workforce debate and reforms. The N³ET Myth Busters are a series of short research essays that are targeted to review and redress the evidence base for a specific belief.

MYTH: You may not get the best care from a nurse practitioner the series is now available. Please distribute this important piece of work to your colleagues. FACT: Nurse practitioners are authorised, educated and prepared to provide comprehensive care in a safe, modern way

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS - Attention N³ET Stakeholders!

CONSULTATIONS - Nurse Practitioner Workforce Planning Data Set

Consultation is now open on the Exposure draft of the Nurse Practitioner Workforce Planning Data Set. All interested stakeholders are invited to review the exposure draft and provide comment. Consultation on this Exposure draft is open until 15th February 2006.

"Nurse Practitioners In Australia: Mapping Of State/Territory Nurse Practitioner (NP) Models, Legislation and Authorisation Processes". The comprehensive mapping of how NPs are authorised to practice in each State and Territory is now available.

CONSULTATIONS - Decision Making Framework for Nurses and Midwives - Scopes of Practice

The ANMC is commencing a series of forums and welcomes the input of nurses and midwives nationally. To contribute to the consultation process, confirmed dates for each state and territory are now available online at ANMC website or on the N³ET Conference Watch page. The NSW date is yet to be advised. This is an opportunity for all nurses and midwives to feed into this important piece of work.

February 1st: Solution Seekers - Highlight of the Month: DEU Model of Clinical Placement for Undergraduate Nursing Students at the University of Canberra

The DEU is both a model and a process for clinical teaching and learning, reconfirms clinical experience as a core aspect of learning about nursing and reflects principles of adult learning. or more information, go to the N3ET web site: <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/>

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December Progress Report now available

Click [here](http://www.nnnet.gov.au/work/progress.htm) to view the latest Taskforce progress report:

N³ET Myth Busters

The first in the series Myth: People "drop out" of nursing more than other careers is available online now! The second of the series is coming soon!

MYTH: People 'drop out' of nursing more than other careers (PDF, 301.46 kb)

FACT: Attrition from nursing study and employment is not exceptional; rather nursing offers excellent employment opportunities and experiences relatively high rates of retention in both study and employment.

N³ET Conference Watch

It's a new year with new opportunities. N³ET Conference Watch will continue to scan for new events and conferences as they come up. If there is an event in your area that may be of interest to others, please submit the details by contacting Erin Statz from the [N³ET Secretariat](#).
