



Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council

NATIONAL NURSING & NURSING EDUCATION TASKFORCE

Message from the Chair

May 2004

In November 2003, State/Territory and Australian Government Ministers for Education and Health announced the establishment of a National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET). N³ET has been set up to implement recommendations of [Our Duty of Care](#) (2002), the report of the National Review of Nursing Education.

The recommendations in *Our Duty of Care* encompass a diverse range of issues such as the skill mix and work organisation of nurses, augmentation and retention of the current nursing workforce, training of care assistants, funding of clinical education and national education standards - issues that affect nurses every day.

N³ET is also responsible for a number of the recommendations from three recent Australian Health Workforce Committee (AHWAC) nursing workforce reports: [The Critical Care Workforce in Australia 2001-2011](#) (2002), [The Midwifery Workforce in Australia 2002-2012](#) (2002), and [Australian Mental Health Nurse Supply, Recruitment and Retention](#) (2003), in addition to further work regarding nurse specialisation.

This is the first time that there has been a framework for national collaboration on these issues.

[N³ET](#) brings together some of Australia's leading nursing, nursing education and training specialists who have been nominated for their leadership qualities and collective expertise. There is a wealth of talent and experience within the Taskforce, as well as enthusiasm and commitment about the task at hand. The Taskforce is supported by a [Secretariat](#) working from the Department of Human Services, Victoria.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Nursing in Australia and N³ET is regarded as a key vehicle to drive a national reform agenda in nursing. The Taskforce is certainly committed to continuing to consult and communicate on an ongoing basis with all nurses and stakeholders during the course of implementing the recommendations.

Our Duty of Care identified the "need for a national focus, a coherent voice on nursing issues, nursing leadership and recognition and affirmation of nurses" (p 108). The Taskforce is committed to building an enhanced and sustainable healthcare system through the promotion of professional visibility and pride, quality education and regulation to nationally consistent standards and capacity in practice, education and research. In this way it hopes to be that *coherent voice*.

Adjunct Professor Belinda Moyes
Chair
National Nursing & Nursing Education Taskforce