



NATIONAL NURSING & NURSING EDUCATION TASKFORCE (N³ET)

N³ET KEY MESSAGES – NUMBER 1, APRIL 2004

The National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET) was established in November 2003 and has now met three times. It has been agreed that following each meeting, key messages will be released that identify the pivotal issues from each meeting.

Taskforce begins meeting with Stakeholders

The Taskforce has commenced dialogue with key stakeholders, such as the Australian Nursing Council (ANC). Early discussions with the ANC have been fruitful and have identified areas of ANC work that directly link to specific recommendations in "Our Duty of Care", namely:

- National Standards for Nurse Practitioners (Rec. 5),
- National ANCI principles to underpin nursing legislation & regulation (Rec. 6),
- Models of Preparation (Rec. 19) and
- Enrolled Nurse competencies (Rec. 21)

There is a commitment to work collaboratively and ensure that the work of the ANC, such as the Discussion Paper "Action on National Direction for Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses Conducted in Australia", is integrated with the work of the Taskforce. In the course of that discussion it has become clear that future work needs to make clear the distinction between the accreditation of *courses* and the accreditation of *professionals*.

A Communication Strategy for the work of the Taskforce is clear

The Taskforce is committed to ensuring that its work is well communicated and understood by the wide variety of stakeholders in the health and education sectors nationally. A detailed communication strategy to enable effective consultation and communication has been developed. It will ensure that all stakeholders will be able to access information and updates on the progress of the implementation of the many recommendations readily.

A website will be launched in a couple of weeks that will have details of the Taskforce and the recommendations. The site will also enable new stakeholders to register "on line" or to download updates on the Taskforce.

Mapping the work to be done

Over the past weeks the Taskforce has been preparing a revised workplan for the recommendations. The workplan will then be submitted to AHMAC¹ for approval, an essential step in the process. There have been six recommendations identified as high priority that need to be progressed as soon as possible. These six are currently having detailed project plans developed so that work can commence immediately (Recommendations 3, 5, 8, 12, 24 and 25). The other recommendations will be scheduled to commence over the next 12 months.

Taskforce to also implement Critical Care & Midwifery Workforce Reports

In addition to the recommendations of "Our Duty of Care", the Taskforce has been advised it will also be responsible for a number of the recommendations from two recent AHWAC² nursing workforce reports, *The Critical Care Workforce in Australia 2001-2011* (2002)³ and *The Midwifery Workforce in Australia 2002-2012* (2002)⁴.

¹ Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC)

² Australian Health Workforce Advisory Committee (AHWAC)

³ Australian Health Workforce Advisory Committee (2002). The Critical Care Nurse Workforce in Australia, AHWAC Report 2002.1, Sydney www.health.nsw.gov.au/amwac/reports.html

⁴ Australian Health Workforce Advisory Committee (2002). The Midwifery Workforce in Australia, AHWAC Report 2002.2, Sydney www.health.nsw.gov.au/amwac/reports.html



Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council

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The specific recommendations from these reports will also be incorporated into the Taskforce workplan and relevant stakeholders will be identified.