



## NATIONAL NURSING & NURSING EDUCATION TASKFORCE (N<sup>3</sup>ET)

### N<sup>3</sup>ET E-Update (No. 02/2006)

*The National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N<sup>3</sup>ET) was announced in 2003. Following each meeting an E-Update is prepared and circulated to interested stakeholders. E-Updates are brief summaries of the key issues from each Taskforce meeting or other recent news/matters.*

#### **Further work on Nurse Practitioner (NP) practice and national consistency on Prescribing Terminology:**

The Mapping Of State/Territory NP Models, Legislation and Authorisation Processes is now available on-line and N<sup>3</sup>ET would like to thank all those who provided information to help complete this unique and comprehensive profile of NP across Australia. Of course local circumstances and policies are constantly changing however this document provides an important launching place for national work aimed at achieving greater national consistency.

One area identified by N<sup>3</sup>ET for priority action is the current prescribing practices and language. The fragmented development of the NP role by states and territories has resulted in a range prescribing models and differences in terminology and language. N<sup>3</sup>ET view is that the issue of prescribing language/models as important because of:

- The need for consistent language to effectively compare and evaluate the impact and benefits of NP role
- The centrality of prescribing to the NP role
- Confusion about the prescribing scope or authority in the different settings/jurisdictions, and
- Increasing calls for nurses as well as other groups/disciplines to have prescribing authority.

The development of a common national platform that defines the ways in which "prescribing" by nurses occurs now and in the future, is therefore critical and a better understanding of the current practices will assist in this matter. A working group with representatives invited from all State and Territory Chief Nursing Officers, The Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia (SHPA), The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC), Australian Nurse Practitioner Association (ANPA), and Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (CDNM-ANZ). Opportunities for groups/individuals to have input into this project will be announced through our website.

The objectives of the project are (1) to develop a National Nurse Prescribing Glossary and (2) to identify and describe the current range of nurse "prescribing" practices/models using the consistent language of the glossary.

#### **Work with DEST identifies strengths in nursing education pathways**

Over the past few months, N<sup>3</sup>ET has been identifying opportunities for maximizing education pathways through credit arrangements and recognition of prior learning. There is a sound policy framework for offering credit and RPL that has been developed by DEST and endorsed by MCEETYA and it clear from our investigations that many universities already offer advanced standing, block and individual credit and customized or condensed courses for enrolled nurses and graduate entrants to articulate to Bachelor of Nursing programs. We are currently looking at the markers of successful articulation programs and the strategies and supports that need to be in place to promote success for students articulating to nursing through these pathways.

N<sup>3</sup>ET has been contacted by DEST, who are conducting a national study of credit arrangements following introduction of "Good Practice Principles for Articulation". N<sup>3</sup>ET is providing DEST with details of articulation/credit models developed by universities with nursing programs to demonstrate how the "Best Practice Principles" are being implemented at institutional level and how issues for both schools and nursing students are managed.

N<sup>3</sup>ET is also looking at opportunities for articulation between bachelor of nursing and bachelor of midwifery programs; and for bachelor of nursing students to enroll as a second level nurse (enrolled nurse or Registered Nurse Division 2 in Victoria) part way through their studies.

#### **N<sup>3</sup>ET partners with National Nursing Organisations to develop Governance Standards**

N<sup>3</sup>ET is pleased to announce a collaborative partnership between The Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) and the Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) as secretariat and chair of the National Nursing Organisations to develop a governance framework for specialist nursing and midwifery organisations. Funded by N<sup>3</sup>ET, the project will develop a set of sound governance standards to guide the practice of organisations representing the interests of nursing and midwifery and will then use the standards to measure current compliance.

The project partners all welcome the opportunity to provide a governance framework based on principles of transparency and accountability, procedural fairness and stakeholder participation, which will assist nursing and midwifery organisations in delivering professional accountability.

The project will be seeking input from members of the National Nursing Organisations and other interested specialist nursing and midwifery organisations across Australia that are engaged in the development of standards, competencies and/or guidelines for specialty practice, including all the domains of nursing and midwifery practice, and not restricted to clinical specialties. For more information about:

- Governance Standards project, please contact Fiona Armstrong, ANF Federal Professional Officer, on 03 9639 5211 or email [fiona@anf.org.au](mailto:fiona@anf.org.au).
- N3ET work on Specialisation, please visit the website <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/work/recsp.htm>

**For more information (including previous E-Updates) on N<sup>3</sup>ET, go to <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/>**

*Have you registered as a Stakeholder yet?*

*If not, go to the N3ET website and follow the links to **Stakeholder registration**.*