



NATIONAL NURSING & NURSING EDUCATION TASKFORCE (N³ET)

N³ET E-Update (No. 03/2006)

The National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET) 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.

Specialisation (<http://www.nnnet.gov.au/work/recsp.htm>)

The work referred to N³ET by Health Ministers on Specialisation has been developed as several related but distinct activities and the work is progressing well.

- Registered N³ET stakeholders will have received notification of the posting of the N³ET discussion paper on Specialisation and Advanced Practice on our website in March 2006. This paper aims to examine how the language such as *advanced, extended, expanded* and many others are used in the documents of government, regulatory authorities and professional and industrial organisations. Nurses and midwives are encouraged to read the paper and consider how the issues relate to their practice. An on-line facility has also been provided to allow readers to comment on the paper.
- The Deakin University team are finalising their work on developing a framework for nursing and midwifery specialisation in Australia including the criteria for being a recognised specialty. To date, there has been little consistency or structure in the way areas of practice have developed or judged to be a specialty area. In Australia. The work being undertaken by the Deakin team therefore creates an important opportunity to rethink the process and to develop a framework that meets the current and future needs of service planning and associated workforce development (including educational preparation). In May 2006, a report on the framework development will be available and N³ET will be seeking responses to the framework and criteria.
- Over the past few months, National Nursing Organisations, Australian Nursing Federation and Royal College of Nursing, Australia have been partnering to develop governance standards for nursing and midwifery organisations that develop of standards, competencies and/or guidelines for specialty practice. This work will provide guidance on how such organisations can better meet the expectations of contemporary health consumers and as such, this work may provide an excellent example to other disciplines.

Intensive period of activity for the Taskforce & move to new premises

As so often happens, the busiest period of activity for the N³ET coincided with a need to relocate our offices. The N³ET Secretariat is hosted by the Department of Human Services, Victoria and so when the numerous head office divisions were scheduled to move into the new building at the opposite end of the CBD, the Secretariat was also included. For our stakeholders, this may mean you need to update your phone, fax and mailing address details for the team. (<http://www.nnnet.gov.au/contactus.htm>)

As anticipated, the first six months of 2006 are when much of the N³ET work is finalised. To help stakeholders keep track of work pending, we have drawn up a timeline of activities and the links to the project details. (<http://www.nnnet.gov.au/index.htm>)

Mapping exercise

Part of the work we have been undertaking is an extensive mapping exercise which looks at the legislation and regulation of nursing and midwifery practice in Australia, with a view to identifying where greater consistencies can and should be achieved.

The first round of consultation for the mapping has now been completed, and we would like to thank the regulatory authorities, the ANMC, the Chief Nurses and government officers for their assistance with this stage.

The project consultant is currently synthesising the material. A preliminary look at the material indicates that this detailed comparative map highlights a number of key areas of legislation and regulation where differences impact on the MR of capability and mobility of the nursing and midwifery workforce.

We will in the near future be requesting key stakeholders to again assist us by validating the map. This will be an opportunity to fine tune and clarify the details. From past experience the stakeholders have found this type of mapping exercise most beneficial and informative, so we appreciate the time and effort you have and will put into this task. This is an important step and we appreciate your ongoing support.

For more information (including previous E-Updates) on N³ET, 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**.*