



NATIONAL NURSING & NURSING EDUCATION TASKFORCE (N³ET) N³ET E-Update (No. 04/2005)

The National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET) was announced in 2003. Following each meeting an electronic update (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.

N³ET establishes Alliance

Following the *Symposium on Scopes of Practice for Nurses and Midwives* on March 30 2005, N³ET has forged an alliance of key organisations that are positioned to progress priority action areas identified from the Symposium.

The Alliance of N³ET, Australia and New Zealand Council of Chief Nurses (ANZ-CCN), Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery–Australian and New Zealand (CDNM-ANZ) and Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) had their first meeting (via teleconference) to begin planning how the priorities of the **Blueprint for National Action** can be achieved. The Alliance members have agreed to work in partnership and take responsibility for leading key pieces of work on behalf of the Alliance. The details of work and funding arrangements will be discussed over the following weeks.

The **Blueprint for National Action** is available online at the N³ET website. The areas for action focus on achieving national consistency in legislation and regulation, education and practice, frameworks for decision-making and nursing/midwifery regulatory authority (NRA) policies and practices.

Health and Education Forums

Health and Education Forums have been established in each state and territory coordinated by the Chief Nurses. Over the coming months, N³ET will be working with Chief Nurses to access the Forums to seek advice and views on a number of recommendations including:

- National consultation on research priorities as part of workplan on Recommendation 8
- Initial consultation to inform the development of media guidelines for the portrayal of nursing and midwifery, and
- Ways to identify and promote best practice examples related to Recommendation 27 (Interdisciplinary & Cross Professional Approaches to practice and education), Recommendation 28 (Work Organisation), and Recommendation 30 (Workplace Culture).

Review of Re-entry Completed

Following on from the review of postgraduate scholarships across Australia that was undertaken as phase one of Recommendation 25, N³ET has now completed a review of Re-entry requirements in each state and territory. This work was undertaken to enable the Taskforce to give advice to Ministers on the applicability of a loans scheme for university units to support re-entry and the final report will be progressing through to AHMAC soon.

The review considered the various NRA re-entry requirements across Australia; the funding support available for re-entry and the different approaches and programs that have been developed to assist nurses and midwives to demonstrate competence for re-registration/re-enrolment. The findings will provide important foundation for the work on greater national consistency for re-entry to be undertaken as part of the **Blueprint for National Action**.

Productivity Commission Health Workforce System Study

In March 2005, the Productivity Commission announced it would undertake an Australian Health Workforce System Study. The study will look at issues affecting the supply of health professionals as well as the structure and distribution of the workforce. Many of these issues are common themes directly related to the work of the Taskforce and the Taskforce welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the submission that will be made by AHMAC to the Productivity Commission.

For more information (including previous E-Updates) on N³ET, go to
<http://www.nnet.gov.au/>

*Have you registered as a Stakeholder yet?
If not, go to the N3ET website and follow the links to Stakeholder registration.*