



N³ET E-Update (No. 04/2006)

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.

1.0 Final Reporting

The Taskforce is in the process of finishing off the work arising from its Workplan agreed with Ministers in 2004, as well as preparing a final report on the Taskforce activities and outcomes. Reports of the Taskforce's activities on individual projects are becoming progressively available on-line. We would draw your attention to the recent publications available from the N3ET website www.nnnet.gov.au :

- The language of specialisation paper (work arising out of Recommendations 4, 5 and 6 of the National Review of Nursing Education (2002): *Our Duty of Care* report): "A Select Analysis of the Language of Specialisation and Advanced Nursing and Midwifery Practice"
- An "Atlas" of Nursing and Midwifery Legislation and Regulation: a mapping exercise of legislation and regulation of nursing and midwifery in Australia
- Consultation Document: Specialisation Framework
- Governance Standards for Specialist Nursing & Midwifery Organisations (by the National Nursing Organisations)
- A report on Commonwealth funding to support the costs of clinical practicum for undergraduate nurses and midwives in Australia (work arising from Recommendation 24: The National Review of Nursing Education (2002): *Our Duty of Care* report)
- Media and Communication Principles for Nursing and Midwifery in Australia (work arising from Recommendation 9: The National Review of Nursing Education (2002): *Our Duty of Care* report)
- The Myth Busters series - copies of four published Myth Busters
- The Commonwealth Funding for Clinical Practicum Report

Please review our [Publications](#) web page over the next few weeks as other reports/documents become available.

2.0 [Atlas of the Legislation & Regulation of Professional Regulation of Nursing and Midwifery in Australia](#)

As part of the work N3ET has been doing to develop a framework for consistent regulation of nurses' and midwives' scope of practice (Recommendations 4, 5 & 6 of the National Review of Nursing Education (2002): *Our Duty of Care* report), N3ET has completed an extensive mapping exercise of the legislation and professional regulation that impacts on the practice of nurses and midwives across Australia. The mapping for this project is not a comprehensive review of the full range of the regulatory framework governing the practice and conduct of nurses - it is purposefully selective, cutting across the material from a few specific and key angles, ie:

- *The quality and safety of healthcare for the community* - a nurse or midwife's competence and suitability to practice safely. This links it to the extensive work being conducted around the regulation of practise, which has developed a life of its own as the problematic notion of 'scope of practice'; the foundation of which is about defining the level of skills, knowledge, attitudes and experience needed to practice within the various areas of nursing and midwifery.
- *The portals of entry and the mobility and flexibility of the nursing & midwifery workforce across jurisdictions, specifically within Australia.* This links the work to the current acute focus on the health workforce, exemplified in the work of the Productivity Commission in 2006

Eight 'Maps' have been developed focusing on key areas related to the Taskforce's broader workplan:

1. [Map 1](#) – The legislation, the regulatory authority and professional standards
2. [Map 2](#) - The registers and or rolls of nurses and midwives
3. [Map 3](#) – Original or initial entry to practice requirements as a registered nurse, registered midwife or enrolled nurse
4. [Map 5](#) – Application for restoration to register or roll – not currently registered or enrolled in any other jurisdiction
5. [Map 6](#) - Application for registration or enrolment under mutual recognition
6. [Map 7](#) – Renewal of registration or enrolment
7. [Map 8](#) – Safe practice in specialised & specific practice areas of nursing & midwifery
8. [Map 9](#) - Setting & reviewing educational standards.

The inescapable conclusion from the mapping and the limited analysis that the Report provides in relation to the data that is collected is that there is an imperative to develop a more uniform approach to the regulation of nurses and midwives in Australia.

A report on the mapping exercise will be discussed at the N3ET Round Table scheduled for June 22 2006 in Melbourne.



Post script: The N3ET Round Table to discuss the "Toward consistent regulation of nursing and midwifery practice in Australia" report (the report of the N3ET legislation and regulation mapping exercise) was held in Melbourne on June 22 2006. The Round Table was well attended by the Chief Nurses, the Regulatory Authorities, the ANMC, and representatives from AHWOC, the AHMAC Regulation Sub-Committee and the CDN-ANZ. There was broad agreement at the Round Table that there was evidence to support moving towards greater consistency in the regulation of nursing and midwifery in Australia.

3.0 N3ETWorks

To celebrate the achievements of N3ET, a launch of a CD containing the completed "N3ETWorks" is being planned for the end of August. "N3ETWorks" are a series of papers for the wider stakeholders that give an account of the N3ET work and findings.

Stakeholders will receive a copy of the CD containing copies of all the major reports and related work of the Taskforce over the past two and a half years.

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**.*