



NATIONAL NURSING & NURSING EDUCATION TASKFORCE

N³ET E-Update (No. 06/2004)

DECEMBER 2004 TASKFORCE MEETING

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.

Nursing Education and Workforce Forums (Rec 3)

The Taskforce is pleased to report that forums are underway in all jurisdictions and the initial project timelines have been met.

To date, Adjunct Professor Belinda Moyes, Chair, N³ET, has attended forums in the ACT, NT, TAS, WA as well as joining a teleconference with Queensland. Professor Moyes will be attending the NSW Health - Nursing & Midwifery Office National Education & Workforce Forum on 20 December 2004, as well as attend forums in Victoria and South Australia in the New Year. Matters addressed have included local and regional nursing education and workforce issues and the events have been an opportunity to collectively review the many recommendations referred by Ministers to the jurisdictions to progress.

Over the next 2-3 months the Taskforce will work with Chief Nurses to formulate processes to support future forums, develop a monitoring process, and determine an evaluation framework.

The Taskforce encourages nurses and midwives to contact the CNOs to ascertain how they can have input into the forums in their jurisdictions.

National Standards for Nurse Practitioners (Rec 5)

Following a meeting of the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council (ANMC) on 17 November 2004, the ANMC has advised the Taskforce the Nurse Practitioners Standards Project report has now been considered by the Council. Feedback to ANMC has revealed a lack of consensus regarding endorsement of the recommendations. It is the ANMC's intention for the publication of the Report to contain a "Forward" positioning the competency standards as a "credible foundation for further development".

The ANMC has advised that information on the availability of the research report will soon be posted on the ANMC web site.

The Taskforce wishes to express its continued desire to work closely with the ANMC with regard to the developing nurse practitioner role, however, sees the report as a *foundation* for further work.

An recent update on the Taskforces project for National Standards for NPs that was presented to ANMC, NRAs and Chief Nurses from each jurisdiction is available on the N3ET website: <http://www.nnnet.gov.au/whatsnew.htm>

Commonwealth Assistance for Speciality & Re-entry Courses (Rec 25)

The Taskforce again wishes to thank those organisations providing scholarships for postgraduate specialty and re-entry courses who participated in the recent audit by



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the Taskforce.

The scholarship data has been analysed in conjunction with existing information regarding nursing workforce shortages/vacancies. The Taskforce is presently preparing a report outlining the findings of the audit, which will be submitted to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

Mapping of National Work against the Work of N³ET

The Taskforce has recently undertaken a mapping exercise of work planned or underway nationally by organisations such as the Australian Health Workforce Officials Committee, the National Health Workforce Secretariat, the Council of Deans of Nursing & Midwifery (Australia New Zealand), the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Department of Human Services Victoria, the Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council, the Department of Education, Science & Training, Department of Health & Ageing (Aged Care) and Australian Council for Safety & Quality.

A number of projects have been identified which are relevant to the work of the Taskforce, specifically in relation to Recommendations 3-9, 12-14, 20-21, 24-28, 30, 33-36; Critical Care Recommendations 1-3; Midwifery Recommendations 1, 2 and 4; Mental Health Recommendation 1 (Marketing), and Nurse Specialisation.

The Taskforce will engage with these groups in order to remain informed of national work being progressed to ensure the Taskforce's work is relevant and contextualised.

2004 - Year in Review

Following the establishment of the N³ET Secretariat in April 2004, the Taskforce has made significant progress.

To date, there have been eight Taskforce meetings, the workplan has been approved by the Australian Government State and Territory Health and Education Ministers, work on a number of the recommendations has commenced and the Taskforce has engaged with various stakeholder groups.

The achievements to date would not have been possible without the contributions and support from the various nursing and midwifery organisations, as well as from a number of individuals, from across Australia.

The Taskforce wishes all of you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2005!

**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.*