



## N<sup>3</sup>ET E-Update (No. 06/2005)

*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.*

### A different way of working for Alliance Members

At today's meeting, The Taskforce reiterated its concern that the various pieces of work being undertaken by the Alliance on the [Blueprint for National Action](#) needs to be both informed by and reflective of, the views and perspectives of **all** of the Alliance members. This critical work requires the Alliance partners to embrace a new way of working in partnership with other sectors for the benefit of the nursing and midwifery professions and as such, there are challenges.

It is however, the clear view of the Taskforce that it is only by all the various pieces of work being informed by a full range of views (employers, educators, government and regulators) that it will be able to be implemented effectively. This unique opportunity for nursing and midwifery will only be realised if the Alliance members are all able to show in tangible ways, that they are now able to work differently, to act in partnership and seize the moment.

### N3ET work highlighted to Productivity Commission Health Workforce System Study

In March 2005, the Productivity Commission announced it would undertake an Australian Health Workforce System Study. The study is looking at issues affecting the supply of health professionals as well as the structure and distribution of the workforce, issues directly related to the work of the Taskforce.

The Taskforce welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the submission made by AHMAC to the Productivity Commission and was pleased to see that work from the National Review of Nursing that N3ET has been asked to do, has been reflected in the AHMAC submission. The Taskforce was acknowledged as *"an important collaborative mechanism for progressing the development of a national perspective and policy in relation to nursing/midwifery issues"*

The Taskforce encourages nurses and midwives to review the range of submissions made to the Commission by individuals and organisations from across Australia (available via the [Productivity Commission](#) website) and to be informed about these important issues occurring in the national landscape.

### Development of Minimum Data Set of NP Activity for States/Territories

As part of its work on [Recommendation 5 - National standards for Nurse Practitioners \(NP\)](#), the Taskforce has commenced work to develop a minimum dataset of NP activity. The NP Activity Minimum Data Set will define the minimum data required to provide consistent de-identified client level data relating to services provided by NP in each State and Territory. The NP Activity Minimum Data Set will be primarily focussed on supporting the current understanding of the NP role as well as the further development of the role and to provide data to government, health service planners and researcher to inform future policy development and service planning. The data set will provide a basis for the future development of research and evaluation methodologies related to NP practice by providing structure and consistency in the way high level data on NP is collected.

The Taskforce will invite key stakeholders to join a Development Team to work with AIHW on the Data Set and the work is anticipated to start in the coming weeks. Given the relative newness of the NP role and small numbers of NP at present it is critical to capture this moment to begin developing consistent data on this important role.

### N3ET connects with ATSIHWWG to progress work on educational pathways

[Recommendation 12](#) of the National Review of Nursing Education 2002: Our Duty of Care report recognises that consideration needs to be given to providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people to pursue a career in nursing. The Taskforce has been discussing this matter with members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Working Group (ATSIHWWG), the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN) and other stakeholders, and as a result a member of CATSIN will join the Recommendation 12 Work Groups to bring an ATSI perspective to the work.

The Taskforce is committed to considering issues specific to ATSI people in all aspects of its work and will continue to liaise with CATSIN and ATSIHWWG.

### Progress on Recommendations being implemented by States/Territories

The Taskforce provides quarterly progress reports on the recommendations it has responsibility for implementing to both AHMAC and MCEETYA. In addition, the Taskforce is required to provide a report to Ministers on a number of recommendations for which the jurisdictions are responsible. There are four recommendations where national implementation was not supported, however, the Taskforce was asked by Ministers to report back after 12 months on the initiatives of individual jurisdictions with respect to four recommendations. Those four recommendations are:

- o Recommendation 13 - Student Nurse employment,
- o Recommendation 14 - Standards for Transition Programs,



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

- o Recommendation 20 – Nurse Academics and Teachers, and
- o Recommendation 36 - Nursing Leadership.

As the Taskforce compiles the information provided by Chief Nurses on these recommendations it is evident that there is a lot of excellent work being done that is tailored to the "local" needs and circumstances.

**For more information (including previous E-Updates) on NP<sup>3</sup>ET, go to**

HU<http://www.nnet.gov.au/UH>

*Have you registered as a Stakeholder yet? If not, go to the N<sup>3</sup>ET website and follow the links to Stakeholder registration.*