



NATIONAL NURSING & NURSING EDUCATION TASKFORCE (N³ET)

N³ET E-Update (No. 07/2005)

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.

N³ET work relevant to Nurses and Midwives

At this point, the Taskforce's has been reviewing the progress of our work with particular reference to midwives. The position of midwives in Australia has changed significantly since the National Review of Nursing Education (2002) Our Duty of Care report, with changes in the political and professional environment. In some recommendations referred to the Taskforce, both the issues and the measures to address them are equally relevant to nurses and midwives, while in others there is a perceived need to tease out specific issues for nursing and midwifery given the increasing trend towards direct entry midwifery and the pursuit of a separate professional identity for midwives. Where this is the case, midwives have been specifically considered and engaged to provide an informed perspective.

In addition, some of the recommendations from The Midwifery Workforce in Australia 2002-2012 have been referred to the Taskforce. It is important to the Taskforce that in addressing these and other recommendations, that the diverse range of perspectives and views are heard. Accordingly, midwives are encouraged to engage with, and inform the Taskforce's work. We anticipate vigorous debate so that good outcomes can be achieved.

NP Mapping highlights need for national action:

N³ET has undertaken detailed mapping of each State and Territory nurse practitioner (NP) models with emphasis on the legislation and authorisation processes. The document will be available on the N³ET website in the near future. The NP mapping highlights the diverse approach to managing issues such as prescribing models, education pathways and endorsement and approval processes for NP that exists across Australia at present and highlights that there are opportunities to streamline processes and achieve greater national consistency.

Some work has already commenced such as that being undertaken on education pathways for nurse practitioners as part of a broader project to maximise education pathways ([Recommendation 12](#)) and work is also beginning on the identification of data that is required to inform workforce planning and policy decisions related to NP. As a result of the NP mapping work, the Taskforce has also identified that the following areas should be addressed:

- Guidance on how clinical practice guidelines/protocols should be development and applied to NP practice that reflect the specific experience and educational preparation of NPs
- Identification of appropriate models for nurse prescribing and
- Identification of possible indicators of effective endorsement processes for NPs.

Missed the forum? – There is still an opportunity to have your say

We have now completed consultation with key stakeholders across Australia on two issues related to our program of work:

- Recommendation 8(b) - Building research capacity and national research priorities for nursing and midwifery
- Recommendation 9 – Image of nursing and midwifery

Stakeholders can still make comments on both these issues through the email facility on our website www.nnnet.gov.au, and more information will be available as we finalise our analysis of the information collected.

The Taskforce would like to thank the Chief Nurses/Principal Nurse Advisors from the States and Territories for their collaboration in this endeavour and for hosting the Health and Education Forums on these topics.

We would also like to thank the participants for their valuable contribution. Between 20 and 60 people attended each of the forums, including nurses and midwives from a range of metropolitan and regional service settings, as well as from education, government sectors and professional organisations. Consumers also participated along with school leavers, media experts and other interested people. These forums have generated a wealth of information. They have been particularly useful for participants to share their views, to hear the views of others and to engage in dialogue and debate to inform the way forward.

Staying in touch with work being done by N³ET and others

As we move into the final stages of work on many of the recommendations, it is evident that there continues to be interest and engagement with our work, and we continue to record increases in "hits" on the website and nurses and midwives are engaging with our new Solution Seekers initiative.

The Taskforce has received a steady stream of invitations to provide updates on the work at professional conferences around Australia, and wherever possible we have taken up these opportunities.



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Update of work being progressed by Jurisdictions

The N³ET Quarterly Progress Report to Ministers (September 2005) has been submitted and includes a supplementary report on progress by jurisdictions on four recommendations that were referred to the States and Territories to be progressed through the health and education forums. That report is also available on the N³ET Website and details the different approaches in each States and Territories to progressing/implementing the following:

- Student Nurse Employment (Recommendation 13)
- Transition Programs (Recommendation 14)
- Nurse Academics and Teachers (Recommendation 20)
- Nursing Leadership (Recommendation 36)

For more information (including previous E-Updates) on N³ET, go to

[Hhttp://www.nnnet.gov.au/H](http://www.nnnet.gov.au/H)

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