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National Nursing & Nursing Education Taskforce Newsletter

National Nursing & Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET)

The N³ET is committed to building an enhanced and sustainable healthcare system through the promotion of professional visibility and pride, quality education and regulation to nationally consistent standards and capacity in practice, education and research for all nurses and midwives across Australia.

Holiday season, a time to reflect **Message from the Chair**

In the two years since State, Territory and Australian Government Ministers for Education and Health announced the establishment of a National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce (N³ET), N³ET has progressed and monitored many of the recommendations of the National Review of Nursing Education (2002) Our Duty of Care report.

2005 has been a time of action with N³ET being one of many drivers of change. In the last year, new Alliances have been formed and there is a keen interest in the nursing and midwifery commu-

nity to bring about positive change from within.

The Taskforce is committed to working closely with a number of key stakeholders in undertaking its work. The Taskforce is of the view that collaboration is critical to achieve quality outcomes.

As work progresses, the Taskforce is delighted at the support and encouragement received from not only the nursing profession but from others as well. In the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council's submission to the productivity commission, N³ET was acknowledged as "an impor-

tant collaborative mechanism for progressing the development of a national perspective and policy in relation to nursing/midwifery issues".

The pace of reform in the current environment compels nurses and midwives to be engaged with the Taskforce's work. Through our work, nurses and midwives have an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the future health workforce.

*Adjunct Professor
Belinda Moyes
Chair,
National Nursing & Nursing
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Inside this issue:

Holiday season, a time to reflect, Message from the Chair

Myth Busters, do nurses really drop out? 1

Blueprint for National Action Update 2

N³ET Solution Seekers 2

N³ET Conference Watch 2

N³ET Myth Busters

<http://www.nnnet.gov.au/mythbuster>

N³ET Myth Busters is designed to increase awareness and understanding of contemporary nursing/midwifery issues in the Australian context.

The purpose of a 'Myth Buster' is to explore commonly held views/beliefs. In this case, it is views/beliefs that may be restricting health workforce debate and reforms. The N³ET Myth Busters are a series of short research essays that are targeted to review and redress the evidence base for a spe-

cific beliefs/views.

Anyone who follows the media in Australia is well aware of the campaign to promote many of these 'myths' particularly, the AMA and other special interest groups. Myths that have been recycling are along the lines of: NPs want to replace doctors and midwives are dangerous. Known in the profession to be fiction, these beliefs are repeated so often they become a 'fact' in themselves. Try to source them and they seem to vanish.

The first in the series, **Myth: People 'drop out' of nursing**

more than other careers is currently available on our website.

Future instalments include:

Myth: You may not get the best care from a Nurse Practitioner

Myth: Medical Practitioners provide the only safe model of care for women having babies

HIGHLIGHT!



N³ET Solution Seeker of the month, NSW Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy—NSW Health pg 2

For more information on N³ET, contact the Secretariat on (03) 9616 8137 or online at:

<http://www.nnnet.gov.au>

To receive this newsletter automatically, register as a stakeholder online.

 Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council



Kindly distribute the N³ET Newsletter to any interested colleagues. If possible, we would appreciate it if you would place a copy of the N³ET Newsletter on the staff bulletin board.

Blueprint for National Action Update

Work by the Alliance on the priority action areas identified on the N³ET Blueprint for National Action is progressing. The N³ET legislation and regulation mapping exercise has commenced. Our experience with this kind of work suggests that the information gained from mapping is illuminating as we often make assumptions about how and why we regulate nursing and midwifery practice, and whether we can do it differently and more consistently while still providing protection for the public.

The N³ET paper on key terms (language around specialisation) is due to be completed by mid February 2006. As this work is progressing, we are learning about the politics behind the way various stakeholders protect their interests and construct hierarchies of practice through use of language and key terms.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) is progressing the work to develop a Professional Scope of Practice

Decision Making Framework for Nurses and Midwives in Australia. The ANMC reports that this project is drawing upon the work undertaken on the decision making framework, currently adopted in four states including the Queensland Nursing Council, the Nurses Board of Western Australia, the Nurses Board of South Australia and the Nursing Board of Tasmania.

Like all successful collaborations, the ANMC will be consulting widely with other key stakeholders such as: the N³ET, the nursing profession, the midwifery profession, CDNM, CNO's, professional organisations and the community. A consultation paper is currently being developed and consultation forums are being scheduled for January and February. More information will be available in the New Year from the ANMC website.

Work on the Blueprint for National Action is occurring in a context of rapid change, so it is important that we keep abreast of

current developments. N³ET is tracking what is happening in some key areas, and we are providing opportunities through our Solution Seekers Website for stakeholders to inform others about their work and innovations (find out more below).

Currently, the Nurses Board of Victoria is inviting people to review *Guidelines – Determining Scope Nursing and Midwifery Practice*. To review and feedback on this piece of work visit the website below.

<http://www.nbv.org.au/>

Guidelines are found under news

<http://www.nnet.gov.au/work/rec4.htm>

For more information on the Alliance

Alliance Partners

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council
Government Chief Nursing Officers
Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery
National Nursing and Nursing Education Taskforce
Nursing/Midwifery Regulatory Authorities

N³ET Solution Seekers

Highlight of the Month



NSW Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy

NSW Health

According to the Department of Education, Science and Training, the numbers of Aboriginal students enrolled in courses for initial registration as nurses has been steadily increasing.

To learn more about how the NSW Aboriginal Nursing and Midwifery Strategy aims to provide better health care for Aboriginal people visit [N³ET Solution Seekers](#) today!

N³ET Solution Seekers

N³ET Solution Seekers is the collection of best practice examples and is part of the project scope of several recommendations of the National Review of Nursing Education being implemented by the N³ET including, Recommendations 27, 28, and 30 that related to teams, how work is organised and workplace culture.

N³ET Solution Seekers is a web based application that is an "on line" directory with open access which allows interested parties to lodge a summary of their "best practice" to the directory to be searched by others seeking new ways to address issues and to access

contact details of others who have already implemented the change locally that they are interested in. Launched in September 2005, *N³ET Solution Seekers* has received submissions from many nurse/midwife regulatory authorities, many departments of health and human services, employers and others. The N³ET has received positive feedback from a number of organisations & researchers who have used the site. The N³ET encourages all stakeholders to submit best practices to grow this resource and increase awareness of innovative practices across Australia.

N³ET Conference Watch New in 2006

Title: ***Rural and Remote Mental Health Conference: Best Practice in the Bush - Dream or Delusion?***

Date: February 16-17

Organisation: Department of Health, WA

Title: ***Nursing Leadership 2006 - Leading and Managing for Change***

Date: March 24—25

Organisation: RCNA

Venue: Avillion Hotel, Sydney NSW

For more details on these and other upcoming events/conferences or to submit the details of one, visit

<http://www.nnet.gov.au/confwatch.htm>

