

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF DEANS OF NURSING press release

Adelaide, S.A. 23rd September 2002.

At the Australian Council of Deans of Nursing meeting in Adelaide today the President, Associate Professor Pauline Nugent was strongly critical of the press' treatment of the report of the National Review in Nursing Education 2002. *"This is a report on the education of nurses"* said Professor Nugent . *"The press have ignored this and simply reiterated stories of a nursing shortage. This is a serious issue but is not the subject of the Report"*.

The Council is delighted that both this Report and the Senate Inquiry into Nursing confirmed that the place for the education of registered nurses is within the university sector. The Review endorses a degree program with a minimum of 6 full-time semesters of study. This finally puts to rest the debate over the place of nursing education.

The Report highlights the central place of research in the development of nursing leadership, education and practice. The Council welcomes the introduction of dedicated funding for nursing research and the significant increase in the funding of nursing research student training places. Both of these strategies will contribute to a significant increase in research capacity and consequent improvement in health care access and outcomes.

The Council was pleased to see the recommendation for increased funding of clinical education. The Australian Council of Deans of Nursing has lobbied strongly for this increased funding for clinical education and an increase in nursing

undergraduate places to meet the public's right to adequate nursing care. The 400 extra student places will be an important contribution to this strategy.

As a Review of Nursing Education, the Australian Council of Deans of Nursing notes that few of the recommendations address educational issues. Rather, the Review focuses primarily on work force issues. We consider this an endorsement of the current effectiveness of the education of registered nurses and an indication of the need to focus on creating healthy health care work places.

We look forward to being actively involved in the National Implementation Task Force which is charged with implementing the recommendations of the report and the discussions surrounding the establishment of the National Nursing Council.

The Report of the National Review of nursing Education is available on www.dest.gov.au/highered/programmes/nursing