



COUNCIL OF DEANS OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Academic Nursing & Midwifery Leaders Endorse Productivity Commission Report on Australia's Health Workforce – 25 January 2006

The Council of Deans of Nursing & Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) has welcomed the release of the Productivity Commission Report on Australia's Health Workforce. The report makes a number of recommendations regarding reform of the health workforce in Australia. 'The Council commends the Productivity Commission for recognizing that health services for Australians may be enhanced by workforce reform and job innovation. The recommendations to do with health workforce improvement have the potential to facilitate role expansion of nurses and midwives and nurse practitioners in particular which will benefit the community and assist in improving health services nationally' said Council Chair, Professor John Daly.

'This recognizes that these well educated health professionals have the potential to have greater positive impact on health outcomes for many groups of Australians. This would come through re-examination of scopes of practice, job redesign and health professional role reform observing the key parameters of quality and safety. This has the potential to achieve beneficial outcomes to patients and to the operation of the total health system'

The Council also endorses the recommended national approach to the health workforce, minimizing duplication and inconsistency between States and Territories and sectors in the health workforce. It is also pleased to see recognition of inadequate resources for clinical education and recommendations to effect improvement in this critical area, and recommended attention to rural and remote health care needs and those of special groups.

Council supports the Commission's recommendation 5.3 for a high-level independent taskforce to collect and assemble national data relevant to the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. It urges all Australian Health Ministers and the Council of Australian Governments to endorse and implement the recommendations of the Commission's report.

The Council is the peak organisation that represents the Deans and Heads of the Schools of Nursing in universities that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand. Its aims are to ensure the maintenance of quality standards of university education for nurses and midwives, to be the voice of tertiary education for nurses and midwives, to lead and represent those who provide tertiary education to nurses and midwives and to promote the public image of nursing and midwifery