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International meeting addresses global standards in nursing education

In December 2006, the World Health Organisation and Sigma Theta Tau International convened a meeting in Bangkok, Thailand to identify global standards for basic nursing and basic midwifery education. Professor John Daly, Chair of CDNM, and Professor Kim Usher, Immediate Past Chair of CDNM, represented the Council at this meeting which was attended by key stakeholders from many countries.

Five key areas were identified as critical to the development of a set of standards for initial nursing and midwifery education:

- Program admissions criteria
- Program development requirements
- Program content components
- Faculty qualifications
- Program graduate qualifications

One of the criteria identified by Council is that the minimum standard for nursing and midwifery education would ideally be a course at Bachelor degree level of at least three years duration. The support of Government in responding to the needs of the health profession is also paramount.

The Council is keen to support further work on the establishment of a set of global standards. Collaboration with GANES (Global Alliance for Nursing Education and Scholarship) is currently underway to progress this.

The Council welcomes opportunities provided by meetings such as this to advance nursing and midwifery education locally as well as on a global scale.

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