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## **Nurses astounded at unilateral decision**

Today's announcement by the Australian Government of the creation of a new model to deliver hospital-based training for enrolled nurses, fails to take into consideration broader health workforce education and retention issues.

The Australian Peak Nursing and Midwifery Forum (APNMF) is astounded that without consultation such a unilateral decision was made.

"While we can agree with the Australian Government that there is a need for increased numbers of enrolled nurses in the health workforce, this could be rightly addressed by increasing the places for enrolled nurse training within the current system," said Rosemary Bryant spokesperson for the APNMF.

"Enrolled nurse education is very well conducted in the TAFE / Vocational sector at present; and this training has recently been the focus of a very extensive process of national framework development."

In advising the Australian Government of a better option for spending the touted \$170 million, the APNMF would recommend increasing enrolled nurse places within the current system, providing much needed clinical placement funding for enrolled and registered nursing students, and additional registered nurse undergraduate places within the university sector.

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