



## **Submission to the Independent Review of Nursing Education**

As a tertiary institution providing undergraduate and postgraduate nursing programs, the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Western Sydney University provides the following recommendations in response to the terms of reference below.

### ***The effectiveness of current educational preparation of and articulation between enrolled and registered nurses and nurse practitioners in meeting the needs of health service delivery***

#### **Student clinical placement**

Availability of clinical placements in diverse health care settings is highly competitive and securing adequate placements for students is difficult in NSW, particularly in the Sydney metropolitan area where Western Sydney University is located.

Recommendations:

- Different models of clinical placements be supported, ensuring that a close relationship exists between education providers and health facilities
- The clinical facilitator role be interrogated to ensure that they are suitably qualified and equipped to facilitate student learning and able to adequately support student learning in the clinical setting, regardless of employment status at a facility

#### **Digital competency**

Digital literacy will be an essential skill for the future nursing workforce. Digital literacy includes electronic health records, electronic medication administration and emerging virtual models of care. This requires synergy between health facilities and education providers in the delivery of quality training in e-health systems.

Recommendations:

- Education providers have access to e-health training resources used in local health facilities
- Consideration to be given to the development of an ethical framework that underpins e-health systems

#### **Diploma in Nursing articulation**

Diploma in Nursing articulation programs are important in providing opportunities for Enrolled Nurses to up-grade their registration. However the Diploma in Nursing program focuses on clinical skills competency and does not include the critical analysis of fundamental aspects of nursing including human relationships, ethics and professional practice.

Recommendation:

- The Diploma in Nursing program be reviewed with consideration given to the alignment with the Registered Nurse Bachelor degree

### **National Exam**

The School of Nursing and Midwifery at Western Sydney University does not support the proposal of a national exam to obtain registration after completion of an undergraduate nursing degree. Assessment of competency in all areas of professional practice should be managed within an ANMAC accredited degree program

Recommendation

- A national exam to obtain registration is not instated

### ***The role and appropriateness of transition to practice programs however named***

The transition to practice program is important to ensure a smooth transition for a new graduate. The clinical nurse educator role plays an important role in mentoring and developing new graduates. It is essential that transition to practice programs are valued equally by students, educators and health facilities.

Recommendations

- Clinical Nurse Educator roles in the health system be adequately supported and strengthened to provide clinical learning opportunities for undergraduate students, new graduate Registered Nurses and nurses in their second year of registration and beyond
- Consideration be given to the development of a comprehensive framework setting out expectations of student nurses and Registered Nurses. This framework could be linked to levels of competency and desired qualifications and continuing education

Submission prepared on behalf of the School of Nursing Midwifery, Western Sydney University.

Endorsed by:

Professor Deborah Hatcher  
Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Western Sydney University

02 9685 9817

[d.hatcher@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:d.hatcher@westernsydney.edu.au)