

Education the Nurse of the Future - Independent Review of Nursing Education

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are responsible for identifying and addressing the primary health needs in their region through strategic planning, commissioning services, supporting general practices and other health care providers and supporting integration of local health care services.

South Western Sydney PHN (SWSPHN) Services 7 local government areas and is dedicated to supporting general practitioners, practice nurses and other primary health providers to deliver best possible care for their patients and improve access to quality local health care for the whole community.

The Commonwealth government has identified seven key priority areas for PHNs to focus towards

- Mental Health
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- Population health
- Health Workforce
- Digital health
- Aged Care
- Alcohol and other drugs

Nursing in general practice is a growing profession and the preparedness, recruitment and retention of nurses within general practice is a focus of SWSPHNs workforce priority. With the aim to have a local workforce with suitable cultural and clinical skills to address health needs of their regions, PHNs support general practices to provide quality care to patients.

In order for people access a high quality, culturally safe and appropriately trained workforce, the educational preparedness of nurses to enter the primary care workforce and specifically general practice needs to be considered.

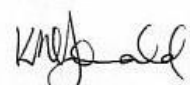
Currently, 340 practice nurses work within the SWSPHN region. An increasing number of new graduate nurses are transitioning to general practice with little to no primary care preparedness at the undergraduate level and lacking in clinical experience. Lack of understanding of the scope of practice of a practice nurse and poor experiences within general practice remain a barrier to both the recruitment and retention of nurses to this growing primary care nursing sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the terms of reference.

I would like to submit that:

- General Practice nursing as part of the primary care nursing sector be considered in the agenda
- Primary Care representation with knowledge of general practice nursing be considered in the membership.

Regards



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CEO



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