Overview

An independent review of nursing preparation in Australia – *Educating the Nurse of the Future* was announced as a measure within the 2018/19 Federal Budget.

Led by Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz AM, the Review will be future focussed and will consider how the education and preparation of nurses in Australia will ensure the nursing workforce is well placed to meet the future needs of Australian communities and our health system.

The Review will give consideration to the attraction into nursing as a career, international competitiveness of Australian based education programs and articulation and career paths of the preparation programs for enrolled and registered nurses and nurse practitioners.

Consultation to inform the Review will occur in a number of ways. There will be face to face consultations across Australia in metropolitan, regional and rural areas, webinars and the opportunity to submit written submissions.

The Terms of Reference for the Review are to examine:

- 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
- factors that affect the choice of nursing as an occupation, including for men
- the role and appropriateness of transition to practice programs however named and
- the competiveness and attractiveness of Australian nursing qualifications across international contexts.

Review of Nursing Education: Educating the Nurse of the Future (The Review)

There is national and international literature suggesting that the bioscience components of our current nursing programs are varied and often not adequate to support the needs of RNs. Bioscience (anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and pharmacology) is a critical element underpinning critical thinking and evidence-based clinical practice (and thus, patient safety) and this is well recognised by nursing students and graduates. It is also a key part of the international translation of Australian qualifications. For these reasons we urge the review to consider the importance of bioscience as a core element of programs – and that bioscience is presented in a clinically and educationally meaningful way including clear links to practice. Bioscience should be presented by a team that includes bioscience experts and staff with clinical experience to ensure clinical application and student engagement with content.

The Australian Bioscience in Nurse Education (BiNE) network, a group of multidisciplinary and inter-institutional bioscience educators, have recognised the need to ensure breadth, relevance and quality of bioscience education in nursing programs. To this end we are developing a proposed National Bioscience framework, in collaboration with the UK and supported by the Advance Higher Education (formerly Higher Education Academy, UK). The UK BiNE network has successfully implemented a similar framework recognised by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (UK). This framework should underpin all Australian nursing programs and we urge the consultative group to consider implementing this as part of the changes in nursing education into the future.

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