



AADDAM

Australian Association of
Developmental Disability Medicine

24 June 2019

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

Thank you for providing opportunity to contribute to this review and planning for the nursing workforce of the future.

The Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine (AADDAM) is an organisation of medical practitioners who specialise or have an interest in the health of the over 500,000 Australian children, adolescents and adults with intellectual disability (ID). The key aim of AADDAM is to improve the health of children, adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disability.

Substantial health inequalities exist for people with intellectual disability (PWID) with higher rates of coexisting health problems, much shorter life expectancy and significant barriers to health care continuing to be demonstrated by research. There is emerging recognition at state and federal levels that the health of PWID remains poor and that systemic policy and practice change is required to address this. A national roundtable is being hosted by the Department of Health on 2 August, 2019 that will involve key stakeholders. NSW has recently made significant investment in the provision of specialised health services for PWID and nurses will be an important member of these teams and the wider state network.

AADDAM recommends the following:

1. AADDAM endorses the Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia submission.
2. AADDAM endorses the Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry, UNSW, submission.
3. Development of a national nursing curriculum that includes training in health care for people with intellectual disability that is codesigned with PWID.
4. Provision of a skilled nursing workforce to work in integrated models of care to address the health disparities of PWID.

AADDAM welcomes further opportunities to contribute to this enquiry and innovative development in nursing workforce and training.

Yours sincerely

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