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CDNM welcomes expansion of Commonwealth Prac Payment

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia and New Zealand) "CDNM" has welcomed the Australian Government's decision to expand the Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP) to students across an additional ten allied health professions from 1 July 2027.

This form of Commonwealth student placement support has been in place for nursing and midwifery students since 1 July 2025. The aim is to support students to undertake essential placement-based learning, successfully complete their professional education and contribute to the future workforce.

The expansion into allied health professions is an important step in addressing the financial pressures faced by students undertaking compulsory clinical placements as part of their professional education. For many students, placements require significant time away from paid employment while they continue to meet the costs of rent, transport, accommodation and everyday living expenses.

CDNM has long advocated for greater recognition of the financial impact of mandatory placements on nursing and midwifery students and welcomes the acknowledgement that these challenges are also experienced across a range of other disciplines.

CDNM Chair, Professor Brendan McCormack, said the announcement strengthens support for students undertaking essential Professional Experience Placements (PEP).

"Professional Experience Placements are a non-negotiable part of nursing and midwifery education, yet they can place significant financial demands on students. The decision to expand CPP support to some allied health professions recognises that undertaking essential workplace learning should not come at the expense of a student's financial wellbeing. We welcome this important step and encourage the Government to continue working towards support for all students undertaking mandatory professional placements."

While supporting the expansion, CDNM highlights that placements are first and foremost learning experiences. Terms such as "prac payment" and "paid placement" can be misleading and obscure the educational intent. Like all education, the focus is still on students developing professional knowledge and competencies, however the setting in which this occurs in a placement is the workplace.

"Overall, the CPP is a really welcome initiative and is already making a difference to nursing and midwifery students. We are grateful for its introduction."

About CDNM

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) (CDNM) is the peak organisation representing universities and other higher education institutions that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand.

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