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CDNM Applauds Recommendations from Australian Universities Accord Final Report

As the leading voice for nursing and midwifery education across Australia and New Zealand, the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (CDNM) welcomes the comprehensive recommendations outlined in the Australian Universities Accord Final Report. With a primary focus on addressing the challenges faced by nursing and midwifery students, the CDNM is dedicated to advocating for the implementation of measures, such as placement financial support, to ensure the future success of the nursing and midwifery workforce.

One of the key areas of concern highlighted in the report is the issue of 'placement poverty,' whereby nursing and midwifery students face financial hardships due to mandatory placements. Recognising the detrimental impact this can have on tertiary participation and successful completion, CDNM fully supports the recommendation for the Australian Government to collaborate with higher education providers, employers, and relevant stakeholders to implement measures to alleviate the financial burdens of clinical placements. CDNM has advocated for a placement bursary or stipend to help support students during placement and this was a focus of their recommendations to government in the recent [pre budget submission](#).

"Students undertaking mandatory workplace experience, such as nurses and midwives, can find themselves experiencing a loss of income with additional costs incurred due to placements such as travel and accommodation. Professional experience gained through these placements is a critical part of nursing and midwifery programs supporting students' entry to the workforce following graduation," CDNM Interim Chief Executive Officer Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms said.

CDNM is pleased to see the recognition of the important role of nurses and midwives within the health care system. While growth in the number of students that can be educated will present challenges, CDNM are keen to work with relevant stakeholders to meet critical workforce shortages. Further increased Commonwealth-supported Postgraduate Places will contribute to improved care for the Australian community by enabling more nurses and midwives to undertake relevant postgraduate study in specialist areas of practice and help to build the research and academic workforce needed for the future.

The nursing and midwifery professions and academic institutions have long supported pathways from assistant in nursing to enrolled nurse to registered nurse and midwife through articulation between VET and Higher Education programs. It is positive to see the recognition of the important role such pathways can play in the Accord Report and opportunities to further improve such pathways are welcome.

The CDNM remains committed to working with government bodies, educational institutions, and industry partners to enact meaningful change and support the next generation of nurses and midwives.

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About the CDNM

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) (CDNM) is the peak organisation that represents the Deans and Heads of the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery in universities that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand.

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