

2025 ELECTION PRIORITIES

A thriving health system depends on a well-prepared, sustainable workforce. This begins with universities. To **address the critical issues facing nursing and midwifery education** and **ensure a viable healthcare system**, the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (CDNM) calls on all political parties to prioritise the following four measures:



Boost Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Preparation at University

- **Increase Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for nursing and midwifery students:** Grow overall CSP allocations to meet demand for qualified nurses/midwives and assign dedicated CSPs for First Nations nursing and midwifery students – for population parity.
- **Provide sufficient funding for program delivery:** Reverse the funding cuts in the Job Ready Graduates package and fund universities for the full cost of nursing and midwifery program delivery.
- **Prioritise student visas for international students to study nursing and midwifery** at Australian universities and extend post study work rights for graduates of these programs who have been educated to Australia's high standards and are eligible for registration here.
- **Expand clinical placement capacity:** Fund university-health service partnerships – including in primary and aged care – to increase the number of high-quality student placements.



Promote Rural and Regional Nursing and Midwifery Education and Practice

- **Expand rural health training places and programs:** To strengthen understanding and likelihood of working in rural health practice: allocate places in the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program to nursing and midwifery students proportional to their enrolment numbers; and broaden the John Flynn Prevocational Program to include nursing and midwifery students.
- **Offer Rural Incentives.** Provide HECS/HELP-fee waivers for registered nurses, nurse practitioners and midwives working rurally to increase workforce in these regions.



Ensure Sufficient, Affordable, High-Quality Clinical Placements

- **Conduct a comprehensive clinical placement research review:** Invest in a national, time-sensitive review of clinical placement models, with a goal of expanding availability, quality and affordability. These placement issues are major obstacles to workforce growth.
- **Fund ongoing placement evaluation:** Provide dedicated funding for ongoing national evaluations of clinical placements and for clinical facilitator training to ensure quality clinical supervision for students.
- **Make the Commonwealth Prac Payment (CPP) Tax-Exempt:** Support student retention by maximising the financial support they receive through the CPP while on placement.



Fully Implement the Scope of Practice Review Recommendations

Implement the report's recommended primary care workforce development program to expand placement capacity in this setting and enable nurses and midwives to work to their full potential.

CDNM (the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery Australia & New Zealand) is the peak body representing universities offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs in nursing and midwifery across Australia and New Zealand. CDNM is uniquely positioned at the intersection of education and healthcare. It has a pivotal role in shaping the future nursing and midwifery workforce. Our commitment is to build, expand, and enhance the workforce through quality, research-informed education.

For CDNM's full Pre-Budget Submission, click/scan [here](#)

