

COMMUNIQUE

CoNNMO Member Meeting – Friday 4 May 2018

Office of the Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer

Karen Cook, Senior Nursing Advisor provided an update. The Department of Health has commissioned KPMG to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of nurse practitioner models to inform future workforce policy. Key stakeholder meetings have been held with ACNP, ANMF and RACGP. The project team will be visiting pilot sites to observe different NP models across the country to develop case studies. The report for this project will be provided to the Minister for Health at the end of the year. CoNNMO member organisations interested in participating in this project should contact Karen Cook. The MBS Review is nearing completion. Committees will be established for nurse practitioners and midwives with scheduled medicines endorsement as part of this review. The National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network (NNMEAN) has been meeting for two years. There have been sub groups looking at mental health nursing and enrolled nursing. This work has been finalised. The NNMEAN will be winding up in its current form and re-forming as a smaller group of nine organisations. The Commonwealth has taken the lead on developing a National Strategic Approach to Maternity Services (NSAMS). This project will continue until mid-2019. A Project Reference Group (PRG) of jurisdictional representatives and a Project Advisory Group (PAG) of clinicians have been established to oversee this work. Consultation workshops have commenced. There will be approximately 30 workshops held across the country. A public consultation paper has been released on-line. Submissions close Monday 18 June 2018. The consultation paper is available at: <https://consultations.health.gov.au/office-of-the-chief-nursing-and-midwifery-officer/national-strategic-approach-to-maternity-services/>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

Tanya Vogt, Executive Officer provided an update. NMBA has just released the new *Midwife standards for practice* which will take effect from 1 October 2018. They are much more streamlined and contemporary. Thank you to all those that participated in the review of these standards. The NMBA now have standards for practice across all the nursing and midwifery titles the NMBA regulate. An advanced practice symposium was held in Canberra in March 2017. One of the agreed outcomes of the symposium was that the NMBA, together with the chief nursing and midwifery officers, would review the definition of advanced practice. The NMBA will be consulting on the revised definition of advanced practice in the next few months. It has now been 12 months since the Nurse and Midwife Support Program was established. The NMBA has received the 12 month report which demonstrates that the program has been a real success. The NMBA encourages CoNNMO members to promote the program to ensure that all nurses and midwives can benefit. The NMBA has commenced a review of the Decision Making Framework (DMF). A literature review is currently being undertaken. The Board conducted an on-line survey on registrants' awareness and understanding of the DMF earlier in the year. The feedback indicated that the framework needs to be more contemporary and less wordy. The Board is undertaking a review of the re-entry to practice pathway. The review involves seeking feedback from participants and supervised practice venues to ensure the pathway is fit for purpose. Currently work is being undertaken on development of a new model for assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives. It is anticipated this model will be released mid-2019. The new model will still include an equivalence pathway. The significant change will be the assessment pathway, which currently involves using bridging programs. For further information, visit the NMBA website: www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council

Janine Mohamed, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) Board Member provided an update. ANMAC is currently reviewing the *Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards*. A collation of responses from the first round of consultation is now available on the ANMAC website. The second stage of consultation is scheduled to commence at the end of May 2018. ANMAC will be holding a forum in Melbourne as part of the second stage of consultation. It is anticipated the review of the standards will be finalised late 2018. ANMAC's Report is available on the CoNNMO website. For further information, visit the ANMAC website: www.anmac.org.au

Australian Digital Health Agency

Angela Ryan, General Manager, Clinical Programs provided an update. The ADHA is progressing the opt-out expansion program. By the end of 2018, every Australian will have a My Health Record, unless they choose not to. Once the Health Minister announces the commencement date, there will be a 3 month opt-out period. More than 5.7 million consumers are already registered for the My Health Record and the number is growing. It is expected numbers will rise sharply by the end of the year. There is also a steady increase in the number of healthcare providers registered. The highest My Health Record usage relates to MBS and PBS. There will be communication from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in the next few weeks regarding the opt-out program of the My Health Record. It will target every registered health practitioner (660,000) and some non-regulated health professionals (total of 1 million). The ADHA has recently started to meet formally with nursing and midwifery organisations. The agency is looking to partner with stakeholders to provide leadership to the nursing and midwifery professions to increase awareness, education and adoption of the My Health Record. Initial target organisations have included: CoNNMO; the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF); the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP); the Australian College of Nursing (ACN); and the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA). The Agency is seeking to collaborate on the development of nursing specific toolkits. The Agency is aiming to identify and engage clinical champions to support the peer to peer messaging and education of nurses nationally. These champions will sit within a broader pool of clinical champions, including already inducted nurses. For further information, visit the ADHA website: www.digitalhealth.gov.au

Representing the national interests of nurses and midwives in all sectors of the health profession

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The Coalition of National Nursing & Midwifery Organisations acknowledges the traditional owners and Elders past and present of the land on which we meet across Australia

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ANZCCNO / Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia – Prescribing

Tanya Vogt, NMBA Executive Officer and Petrina Halloran, NMBA Policy Manager presented on the NMBA's proposed *Registration Standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses prescribing in partnership*. On recommendation from the Health Workforce Principal Committee (HWPC), the NMBA has worked with the Australian and New Zealand Council of Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers (ANZCCNMO) to explore potential models of prescribing to determine a model for an endorsement to enable registered nurses (RNs) to prescribe scheduled medicines. The NMBA and ANZCCNMO have consulted with governments, key nursing stakeholders, nurses and consumers to formulate the basis for the new registration standard. The NMBA is proposing the *Registration Standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses prescribing in partnership*, structured on Model 2 of the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee's (AHMAC) endorsed Health Professions Prescribing Pathway (HPPP) - Prescribing under designation/supervision. This model enables prescribing to occur where a prescriber undertakes prescribing, within their scope of practice, under the designation/supervision of another authorised health professional. Public consultation will commence in June 2018. The Board will hold public forums as part of this round of consultation. The Board will also be consulting on the guidelines to accompany the registration standard. These guidelines will articulate the partnership relationship, what constitutes safe and effect prescribing and set out the governance relationship.

CATSINaM / Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia – Cultural Safety

Janine Mohamed, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINAM) CEO and Tanya Vogt, NMBA Executive Officer presented on cultural safety in the context of the new NMBA Codes of conduct for nurses and midwives. The National Boards, AHPRA and Accreditation Authorities have committed to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy with a vision of *'patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's as the norm'*. To lead this work, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group was established. This group, made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and representatives from Accreditation Authorities, National Boards and AHPRA, look at how to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patient safety, improve health outcomes for all Australians, develop Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's participation in the health workforce, and contribute to closing the gap in health outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians. To work towards culturally safe practice, the NMBA has partnered with CATSINaM to embed cultural safety in the professional standards and codes of conduct for nurses and midwives. They have also developed a joint policy on racism. The new codes of conduct have attracted some media attention over recent months regarding the glossary definition of cultural safety. The review process for the new codes included a review of both the previous codes of conduct and the professional boundaries documents. The review was informed by research, the nursing and midwifery professions and the public. An extensive working group of key stakeholders provided oversight and specialist input for the codes review. The new codes were developed unopposed. Following the inaccurate claims in the media, the NMBA, along with CATSINaM, the ANMF, ACN and ACM, released a joint statement on cultural safety. CoNNMO members have been invited to lend their support by co-badging with the NMBA on the joint statement. Seventeen national nursing and midwifery organisations have signed on to the statement to date. Organisations that also wish to be involved can contact Tanya Vogt.

Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce

Professor John Pollaers, Chairman of the Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce provided an update on the work of the taskforce. The purpose of the taskforce is to develop a strategy for growing and sustaining the workforce providing aged care services and support for older people, to meet their care needs in a variety of settings across Australia. The taskforce's role is to provide guidance on strategic direction, steer the process of developing a strategy and sponsor robust consultation and engagement. The taskforce has held two national summits, workshops and community consultation. They have engaged with over 400 providers and received 684 submissions from the public and organisations. John has spoken at over 70 forums. The taskforce has also established four specialist technical advisory groups. The three themes for transformational change include: shifting attitude, referring access and enhancing life with 15 strategic actions to be completed. The work of the taskforce is to be completed by 30 June 2018.

Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine

Melinda Hassall, Clinical Nurse Lead, Nursing Program, National Policy and Education provided an update. The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) is a not-for-profit member based organisation. It supports health professionals working in HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine. The ASHM Stigma and Discrimination Project is Commonwealth funded. It is a collaboration, across 8 interventions, with key stakeholders to address systemic barriers, stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with a blood borne virus (BBV) accessing the health system. The Nursing Working Group for Intervention 2 of this project was established at the beginning of 2017. A free on-line learning module for nurses is being developed to raise awareness of stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with BBVs. The module is nearing the final stages of development. Once completed, the module can be accessed through the ASHM website. For further information, visit the ASHM website: www.ashm.org.au

Council report by the CoNNMO Chair and Secretariat is available on the CoNNMO website www.connmo.org.au

Member reports and speaker presentations are available on the CoNNMO website www.connmo.org.au

Next CoNNMO member meeting will be held on Friday 5th October 2018, 9.30am - 4pm, NSW NMA, 50 O'Dea Avenue, Waterloo, NSW.

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