

COMMUNIQUE

CoNNMO Member Meeting – Friday 4 October 2019

Office of the Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer

Liza Edwards, Principal Nursing and Midwifery Adviser, provided an update. The Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer (CNMO) position is still vacant. The Independent Review of Nursing Education - *Educating the Nurse of the Future* report was finalised in September and the report submitted to the Federal Health Minister. The plan is for the four literature reviews, commissioned by the Department of Health and undertaken by the University of Wollongong, on work readiness; clinical skill acquisition; factors influencing nursing as a career choice; and factors influencing the future of health care delivery, to be published alongside the report. The report will be considered by Government prior to public release. Review the website for progress. The MBS review nurse practitioners and midwives reference groups work has drawn to a close with final reports submitted to the taskforce. The Taskforce will be aligning the recommendations for primary care before submitting them to the Federal Health Minister by the end of the year. The CNMO is working on a national strategy for nursing titled *Toward 2030* which will be released for public consultation. The National Strategic Approach to Maternity Services will go to AHMAC for approval in November. *Australia's Long Term National Health Plan* has been released in August 2019. The four pillars of this national plan include: guaranteeing Medicare and improving access to PBS; supporting hospitals and private insurance; prioritising mental and preventative health; and investing in health and medical research. The Chief Nurse and Midwifery Office's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

Petrina Halloran, Policy Manager, provided an update. The revised Decision Making Framework has been finalised and will be released in November 2019, to take effect from 3 February 2020. The Board will be reviewing the Recency of practice registration standard, early next year. The NMBA, in partnership with four other Boards, is consulting on *Guidelines for registered health practitioners and students in relation to blood-borne viruses*. At the next renewal the NMBA will be required to ask nurses and midwives if they perform exposure prone procedures and, if they do, whether they know their blood borne virus status. Earlier this year, at the direction of Health Ministers, there were some changes passed to National Law in relation to mandatory reporting. The revised *Guidelines for mandatory notifications* are currently out for consultation. AHPRA is also currently consulting on the draft proposed *Supervised practice framework* and the revised *Guidelines for advertising a regulated health service*. The NMBA are preparing a regulatory impact statement for the Office of Best Practice Regulation in relation to the proposed *Registration standard for designated registered nurse prescribing*. A Fact sheet has been developed for those that hold dual registration as a registered nurse and paramedic. The new model of outcomes based assessment for Internationally Qualified Nurses and Midwives (IQNMs) will be commencing in January next year. Pilots for the behavioural component, the OSCE, are being conducted this week. The NMBA will be providing further communication about the new model over coming months. Please visit the NMBA website for further information: www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council

Margaret Gatling, Director Accreditation Services, provided an update. There are over 100 education providers offering just over 200 programs in Australia that are accredited by ANMAC and approved by the NMBA. Currently finalising the review of the ANMAC *Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards*. Have moved to a five standard format instead of nine to reduce duplication and for consistency with other accreditation councils. An evidence guide has been developed to provide assistance to education providers on the minimum evidence required when seeking accreditation. The second round of stakeholder consultation for the review of ANMAC *Midwife Accreditation Standards* will commence mid-October. ANMAC encouraged CoNNMO organisations to promote the on-line survey and the opportunity to complete a written submission to their members. The ANMAC *Re-entry to practice for enrolled nurse standards* have been updated and are awaiting approval by the NMBA. The ANMAC Assessor Training Program, consisting of on-line modules, is in development. There is a shortage of clinicians applying to undertake the assessor role. CoNNMO members were encouraged to apply for these volunteer positions if they're interested. ANMAC is moving to an on-line portal for accreditation document submission. They also now have Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Please visit the ANMAC website for further information: www.anmac.org.au

Nursing Now Campaign

Annie Butler, Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) gave an update on the Aged Care Royal Commission and the Nursing Now Campaign. In September 2018, the Prime Minister announced a Royal Commission into aged care quality and safety. ANMF have been campaigning on aged care for many years. Commissioners were appointed in December 2018. The Commission commenced formally in January this year with hearings beginning in February. Annie gave evidence in the first week of hearings in Adelaide. The ANMFs key issue is mandated staffing levels and skills mix for aged care. The Commission has conducted a series of hearings/chapters with each one focussing on a specific topic – aged care in the home, community care, dementia in residential care, Indigenous people and access to care, person-centred care, advance care planning and palliative care services, younger people in residential aged care, and diversity in aged care. Aged care workforce hearings are coming up in October. The Commission are also holding public community forums around the country. The Royal Commission has been extended for a further six months due to the complexity so the interim report is now not due until next year. The ANMF and the Australian Medical Association have a joint statement/agreement calling for legislated staff ratios in aged care. Nursing Now is a global health campaign run in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International

Council of Nurses (ICN). The campaign's aim is to improve the status and profile of nursing worldwide, thereby improving the status of women and health outcomes for all. This three-year campaign is due to conclude in May 2020, with May 12th being the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The campaign focuses on five core areas: ensuring nurses have a more prominent voice in health policy-making; encouraging greater investment in the nursing workforce; recruiting more nurses into leadership positions; conducting research that helps determine where nurses can have greatest impact; and sharing of best nursing practice. The Nursing Now campaign is based on the findings of the Triple Impact Report which identifies three major benefits of investing in nursing and empowering nurses: improved health globally; increased gender equality (as most nurses are women); and stronger economies. One of the problems in Australia is that there is no political commitment and investment in nursing currently. CoNNMO's first objective as per the strategic plan is to 'promote recognition of nursing and midwifery as essential to the health and wellbeing of the Australian Community'. CoNNMO provides a perfect forum to conduct some Nursing Now activities. Next year is the International year of the nurse and midwife. Annie proposed to CoNNMO members that their next meeting be held at Parliament House in Canberra, May 2020, with invitations to politicians to attend. This will create an opportunity to influence policy and address the aims of the Nursing Now campaign. This proposal was supported by CoNNMO member organisation representatives present at the meeting. CoNNMO Council agreed to discuss the details and commence planning. Please visit the website for further information www.nursingnow.org

Nursing Informatics and digitalisation in health

Dr Jen Bichel-Findlay from the University of Technology, Sydney and Chair of Nursing Informatics Australia presented on nursing informatics and the roles of Nursing Informatics Australia (NIA) and Health Informatics Society of Australia (HISA). The Nursing Informatics International Congress, NI2020, will be held in Brisbane 27-29 July 2020. Jen Bichel-Findlay's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website.

Medicare Review

Associate Professor Tom Buckley from the University of Sydney and Chair of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Review Taskforce, provided an overview of the Medicare review process and the recommendations of the Medicare Review Nurse Practitioner Reference Group (NPRG). The Taskforce focused on affordable universal access, best practice health services, value for the individual patient and value for the health system. The Taskforce also reviewed over 7,000 MBS items. When established in 2018, the NPRG was given three months to review the in-scope items and to make long term recommendations. The NPRG recommendations were grouped into four overarching themes: support for comprehensive and coordinated care for people with long term health conditions (in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples); enabling NP care for all Australians; addressing system inefficiencies caused by the current MBS arrangements; and improving patient access to telehealth services. Following the public consultation, the NPRG reconvened in 2019 to discuss the feedback. As Chair of the NPRG, Tom presented to the Taskforce in July 2019. There was a lot of discussion about NP scope of practice which was not under review. NPRG recommendations highlighted to the Taskforce: that patients will benefit; the focus is on long term primary health care management and the location and duration of care; NPs will have access to MBS item numbers that already exist; there will be reduced duplication and fragmentation of care that will be cost neutral; there is enough evidence that collaborative arrangements are anything but collaborative; NP telehealth services are restrictive and don't include the GP; and there will be accurate representation of the NP scope of practice in the MBS. The recommendations are focused heavily on the consumer. The Taskforce is in the process of consolidating all the Primary Care Reference Groups reports and recommendations before making final recommendations to the Federal Health Minister.

Review of National Prescribing Competencies Framework

Steve Morris, CEO of NPS MedicineWise, gave an overview of their work which included their education programs, the resources available to nurses, and the review of the National Prescribing Competencies Framework. NPS MedicineWise is a not-for-profit organisation that has been operating for 20 years, largely funded by the Commonwealth. Their aim is to enhance and improve quality use of medicines by supporting health care professionals and consumers directly. Nurses are the largest user group of their education programs. Resources include webinars and online courses. The medicines line answers up to 12,000 calls a year. The National Prescribing Competencies Framework was first published by NPS in 2012 to provide for consistent, safe and effective prescribing. This framework consists of seven standards and describes the required knowledge, skills and behaviours for prescribing. Five standards focus on prescribing function and two on professional practice and communication. Further consultation on the review of the National Prescribing Competencies Framework will occur in the New Year. Steve Morris's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website. Please visit the NPS website for further information: <https://www.nps.org.au/>

Australian Digital Health Agency

Angela Ryan, Chief Clinical Information Officer presented on promoting awareness and understanding of the National Digital Health Workforce and Education Roadmap and associated goals. Angela provided an overview of the Roadmap findings to date and an overview of the National Digital Health Nursing and Midwifery Capability Framework. There will be opportunities for CoNNMO member organisation's to participate in consultations on both the Roadmap and the Capability Framework over coming months as these documents develop. Angela Ryan's presentation is available on the CoNNMO website. Please visit the ADHA website for further information: www.digitalhealth.gov.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 to be confirmed, please check the website for updates.