



## **Nurses welcome collaboration to Gov bill Nov 09**

### **Media release**

### **Australian College of Nurse Practitioners 12 Nov 09**

"The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) commends the government on including a legal requirement for a collaborative arrangement within the *Health Legislation (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill* and the *Midwife Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Bill*", says Andrew Cashin, Acting President of ACNP.

Nurse practitioners have always sought to have a strong collaborative arrangement with medical practitioners since the introduction of nurse practitioners within the health care system. It is therefore gratifying that the AMA, after many years of resisting collaborative arrangements with Nurse Practitioners, have now seen the wisdom of this.

The College hopes that the AMA's recent press release (5 Nov 09) indicates that they will adopt a more positive attitude towards collaboration with Nurse Practitioners in the future as the MBS and PBS framework is rolled out.

If health care reform is to improve equity of access to health care services through enabling Nurse Practitioners to have their full scope of practice, then the AMA and all stakeholders will need to ensure that their approach is truly collaborative and not an exclusionary or gate-keeping role.

It is understood that collaboration in this medical/nursing context, is defined as the coming together of health practitioners with a common goal to work in the best interest of the patient. It is possible to work autonomously and collaboratively because of local agreed goals and needs of the patient.

The Australian population is becoming progressively older, placing significant pressure on both the supply of supported accommodation and health services. Collaboration between general practitioners and nurse practitioners over the care of people living in residential aged care facilities has the potential to promote continuity of care, decrease hospitalisations and readmissions, reduce costs, and improve residents' access to care. It will require improved communication and the overcoming of several attitudinal and organisational barriers says Jane Elizabeth Truscott PhD, MBA, MS, NP, Faculty of Sciences, Engineering & Health, Central Queensland University.

The aim of ACNP is to represent the interest of all Nurse Practitioners as we interface with the health care system. This college continues to be a proactive voice in helping to shape healthcare delivery in Australia as we equip Nurse Practitioners to develop their career paths in various health settings.

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