

**National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network  
Committee Meeting  
Communiqué  
April 2016**

The inaugural meeting of National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network (NNMEAN) was held on 7 April 2016 in Canberra.

The NNMEAN has been established in response to the nursing workforce shortage identified in the *Australia's Future Health Workforce – Nurses (AFHW – Nurses)* and *Nursing Workforce Sustainability: Improving Nurse Retention and Productivity* reports. The NNMEAN will provide high level strategic advice to Health Ministers on an evidence based approach to the planning and coordination of education, employment and immigration for nurses and midwives in Australia. The NNMEAN will report to the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC) through the Health Workforce Principal Committee (HWPC).

The key focus of the inaugural meeting was the development of a work plan to build the evidence base, examine new models of care and develop the requisite skills across a number of areas of significant workforce shortages. In developing the work plan the NNMEAN considered the recommendations of the *AFHW – Nurses* and *Nursing Workforce Sustainability: Improving Nurse Retention and Productivity* reports, and other information including the recent national reforms to health. Members agreed that the development of the *Australia's Future Health Workforce – Midwives* report will be a priority task.

The NNMEAN committed to building relationships with the National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN) and the Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Reference Group (NMSRG), and collaborating on future initiatives. It was agreed that an invitation issued to the newly appointed Chair of the NNMEAN to attend the next meeting of the NMTAN would be accepted.