National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network Meeting Communiqué June 2017

The National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network (NNMEAN) met on 15 June 2017 in Canberra.

Members were presented with the results of the NNMEAN Members Evaluation Survey conducted in April 2017. Issues raised by the survey led to discussion on the challenges of developing the nursing and midwifery workforce in the context of a changing health care system. How best to provide information to health ministers on a more effective utilisation of the nursing and midwifery workforce within this context was also discussed.

Members agreed to engage a facilitator for the next meeting to focus on a strategic approach to the nursing and midwifery workforce (including models of care) in order to meet the demands of the future health system.

The NNMEAN was briefed on the first meeting of the Enrolled Nurse Working Group (ENWG) held on Friday, 9 June 2017. Members noted that the ENWG will undertake further research on the current role and education of enrolled nurses.

The NNMEAN noted work underway for the development of the *Australia's Future Health Workforce – Midwives* report and discussed the importance of a robust methodology for supply and demand data and modelling.

The NNMEAN noted the recent release of the Nursing and Midwifery Fact Sheets had been well received. Members put forward suggestions for inclusion in future fact sheets, including a primary health care profile.

Members were briefed on the outcomes of the Mental Health Working Group (MHWG) meeting, held in May 2017, and considered the draft MHWG Work Plan.

The Department updated the NNMEAN on a number of reviews and reports underway in Aged Care, including the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Future of the Aged Care Sector Workforce, the Aged Care Legislative Review and the Aged Care Workforce Strategy. Members agreed to review nursing workforce issues in Aged Care once the outcomes of these reviews and reports are known.

The next meeting of NNMEAN will be held in September 2017.