



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health

Supplementary questions for witnesses – Thursday 12 December 2024

The implementation of PC2 recommendations relating to cross-jurisdictional health reform and government consultation with remote, rural and regional communities

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

1. What cross-jurisdictional health reforms are still needed to develop the rural and regional medical workforce in NSW?

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) welcomes the opportunity to respond to this supplementary question, and provide further information related to cross-jurisdictional remote, rural, and regional NSW health reform. Nurse Practitioners are well positioned to address the delivery of specific health services and specialist care in remote, rural and regional NSW including maternity care, mental health, aged care, oncology and Indigenous health services.

To further develop the remote, rural and regional medical and nursing workforce in NSW, several cross-jurisdictional health reforms are still needed, including acknowledgment of the extensive and vital contribution of Nurse Practitioners in ensuring communities can access expert, safe, and timely care in these areas of NSW, and the need for improved mentorship and interprofessional collaboration across both public and primary health sectors.

A collaborative approach to clinician education and mentorship ensures that knowledge and skill acquisition are enhanced across all disciplines including medical practitioners, nurse practitioners and allied health professionals, to improve overall patient outcomes through enhanced scope of practice. Siloing training into disciplines is not cost effective nor an efficient or best use of educational frameworks. Furthermore, for all health professionals teaching payments should be made available to support quality teaching and supervision across the workforce.

In-line with the [Rural Nurse Practitioners- A framework for services and training in NSW Health](#) and the [Nurse Practitioner Workforce Plan](#) it is imperative that the reform references these important plans to significantly grow the remote, rural, and regional NP workforce by developing supportive and robust pathways for advanced practice nurses, enabling them to meet the theoretical and clinical components of their Master's degrees in order to satisfy the NP endorsement requirements set by AHPRA, and ensuring continuous succession planning is in place in NSW.

Funding, integration and support of cross jurisdictional models is essential, acknowledging that medical practitioners (especially GPs) and nurse practitioners need to work across different sectors (e.g. public health/hospital and primary health care/MBS funded settings) to ensure the community can access health care at the right time and in the right place to achieve optimal outcomes, and to optimise the available workforce

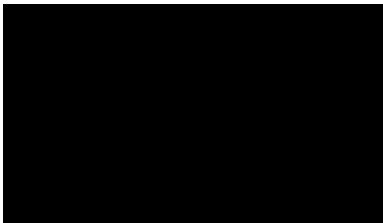
State legislative barriers must be addressed, including death certificates (NPs), work cover/traffic accident (NPs) and push for national reform (e.g. Centrelink, Fitness to Drive, etc.) to ensure

people in remote, rural and regional areas can access appropriate certification and services related to their health.

Improved work/employment guarantees must be provided, including limitation and monitoring of the provision of short-term contracts and casualisation of the workforce (especially for NPs who are often only offered short term contracts), and implementation of cross jurisdictional employment models, to retain health care professionals, improve job security and job satisfaction.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important reform. We welcome further engagement and are available to provide additional clarification as needed.

Yours sincerely,



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