

23 November 2016



Australian Nursing and
Midwifery Federation
(SA Branch)

With you at work and in practice

Hon Jack Snelling MP
Minister for Health and Ageing
GPO Box 2555
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

Re: Advanced Nursing / Midwifery Clinical Practice Roles

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF SA Branch) writes seeking your commitment to establish sustainable Advanced Nursing/Midwifery Clinical Practice roles, as part of a key strategy in improving and strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of our health system.

You are aware that the Government provides support for scholarships related to the creation of Nurse Practitioner roles.

Building on that commitment the ANMF (SA Branch) believes that the scholarships should be extended to nurses and midwives performing or seeking to be employed in Advanced Clinical Practice roles. Enabling nurses and midwives to work with an approved full scope of practice, will enhance knowledge, skills and expertise and build on individual's capacity and capabilities, which underpins the Transforming Health strategy in relation to providing consistent, quality care in the future, and ensuring South Australians have access to the best care possible.

Our recent enterprise agreement (still under ballot) has created a consistent framework for advanced practice using a set of criteria developed nationally through research funded substantially by the ANMF. Providing support for scholarships for advanced practice roles including, but not limited to, NP roles, would be of benefit to the professions and the implementation of our agreement.

Advanced Nursing/Midwifery Clinical Practice roles have the ability to improve the care provided to patients/clients and achieve greater efficiency within health care services. The positive effects of advanced practice roles on patient outcomes have been widely reported globally. In addition to the patient experience, advanced practice roles have been directly linked to a reduction in hospital admissions and a shorter length of stay for patients, resulting in economic savings for the health system.

The basis of advanced practice is the high degree of knowledge, skill and experience applied in the nurse patient/client relationship in order to achieve optimal outcomes through critical analysis, problem solving and accurate decision-making.

Ongoing funding of Advanced Nursing/Midwifery Clinical Practice roles is imperative to improve patient outcomes, workforce productivity and retention and the accessibility, efficiency and effectiveness of health care services.

We seek your support for the establishment of Advanced Nursing / Midwifery Clinical Practice roles in South Australia, and extension of continuing funding of scholarships to these roles in order to assist in improving service capacity without compromising quality of care or health outcomes for patients.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the benefits of the establishment and sustainability of implementing these vital roles in South Australia. If you have any queries or points of clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Elizabeth Dabars.

Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars, AM
CEO/Secretary