Nurses Board of Western Australia

EVALUATION OF THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION SCHEMES

RESPONSE TO DRAFT REPORT

Mobility for registered occupations p. XXIV

- Deeming of registration in the first month for teachers also applies to nurses and gives nurses one month's access to patients before they are fully registered to practise nursing.

- Discrepancies between nurse registering authorities regarding the necessity to demonstrate competence and/or recency of practice in order to maintain registration is an issue of concern to the Nurses Board of Western Australia. Such discrepancies may allow a registered nurse in another state, who has not practiced nursing for twenty years, to be eligible to apply for registration in Western Australia through the Mutual Recognition Act.

Current competency p.79

- The Nurses Board of Western Australia supports the move to ensure currency of competence and is in the process of introducing random competency audits for all nurses registered with the Board.

Occupations pp. 81 – 82

- At present nurses can appeal against registration decisions to the District Court. When the Western Australian State Administrative Appeals Tribunal is established in 2004, a process will be available for nurses to appeal to this body.

- The Nurses Board of Western Australia shares the concern made by the Queensland Nursing Council regarding the potential for nurses previously registered in jurisdictions with a single register, applying for registration in a category on a multiple branch register for which they have had little educational preparation or relevant experience.

1998 Recommendations

Recommendation 7

The Nurses Board of Western Australia is represented on a Collaborative Advisory Panel convened by the Australian Nursing Council. This panel discusses all nurse registration issues and in particular issues related to mutual recognition. This forum has proved to be beneficial to all members of the Australian Nursing Council.

8th August 2003

Ms Maggie Eibisch
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Productivity Commission
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Dear Maggie

2003 REVIEW OF THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Research Report on the Evaluation of the Mutual Recognition Schemes.

Please find enclosed comments related to relevant sections in the Report from the Nurses Board of Western Australia

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Margaret J O Watson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER