



anf position
statement

australian nursing federation

care for people living with a disability

Nurses and midwives recognise that disability can take a variety of forms and affect the physical, mental, sensory, psychological and social ability of the person. Persons with a disability have the right to complete integration within the community, family, school and workplace and assistance should be provided for this to take place.^{1,2}

It is the position of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. Providing care for people living with a disability is a specialist area of nursing and midwifery.
2. Nursing and midwifery education programs should prepare nurses and midwives both to assist with care rehabilitation and maintenance of optimal health for the person living with a disability; and for the prevention of disability of persons in their care. These education programs should also provide the nurse and midwife with and a greater understanding of the problems faced by people living with a disability and their families.
3. Nurses and midwives are important members of the health care team assisting people living with a disability. They work in collaboration with the person and their family, as well as with other health professionals and the community to maintain optimal health and independence of the person living with a disability.
4. The role of the nurse and midwife includes assisting people living with a disability and their families in all facets of their lives irrespective of their residential or care setting.
5. Nurses and midwives use skills and attitudes that enhance the quality of life for persons living with a disability and facilitate the desired degree of independence sought by the person and their family.
6. Nurses and midwives use health promotion strategies and take into account the social view of health, emphasising education and participation in the prevention of disability and the achievement of human potential.
7. Equity in the distribution of health care resources is supported so that technological improvements and other research outcomes benefit all people living with a disability.
8. Programs are supported which identify and prevent major causes of disability; and which promote integration and acceptance of persons with a disability.

9. Nurses and midwives are encouraged to conduct and participate in research relating to persons with a disability in order to provide evidence based care.

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reviewed and re-endorsed november 1996

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reviewed and re-endorsed november 2006

reviewed and re-endorsed november 2009

references

1. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council. 2008. *ANMC Code of Ethics for Nurses in Australia*. Available at: <http://www.anmc.org.au>
2. Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council. 2008. *ANMC Code of Ethics for Midwives in Australia*. Available at: <http://www.anmc.org.au>