

RE: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS 12.2 AND 12.3

As a highly qualified Victorian Maternal & Child Health Nurse, I have practised for 11 years, after many years working in Midwifery and Women's Health generally, including IVF, I wish to stress how important it is, that the requirement of Midwifery qualifications is maintained.

It is essential for Best Practice in the field of MATERNAL and child health nursing. Correctly, huge importance is placed on the early years of childrens' development, but we must not lose sight of the equal importance of the health and wellbeing of the MOTHER (and, therefore, of the family in general).

This means that an educated and deep understanding of the forces that impact on a woman's fertility, pregnancy, labour and birth experience is an integral part of family health nursing.

Having attended several interstate Maternal and Early Childhood Nursing Conferences, in the last few years, it has been patently obvious to the Victorian Maternal & Child Health Nurses that were present, that we were easily further advanced in our practice and innovations, than nurses from other states. The difference? The requirement of a MIDWIFERY Qualification for practice in Victoria.

Over the last decade, there has been an acute shortage of M & CH Nurses in Victoria, if not in other states and this has only been relieved by local government creating part scholarships, to help with the high cost of gaining a qualification in child health Nursing. This necessary action is to be congratulated and, hopefully, expanded, not curtailed.

Sincerely,

Helene Rogers

Maternal & Child Health Nurse

City of Kingston