

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed change of qualifications to become a Maternal and Child Health Nurse in Victoria.

I am currently undertaking my Graduate Diploma in Child and Family Health nursing to become a Maternal and Child Health Nurse. I am already both a nurse and a midwife and have worked very hard to get to where I am at today.

I strongly believe that Victoria has the best Maternal and Child Health Service in the whole of Australia due to the fact that the nurses are both qualified nurses as well as midwives with a wealth of knowledge that is absolutely essential to assisting mothers, children and their families in the community.

I also know from experience through doing my placements that Victorian Maternal and Child Health Nurses are highly regarded for their wealth of knowledge as we often have mothers calling from other states for our advice as they know we have the extra qualifications and feel comforted by this.

Having to do both nursing and midwifery degrees is not a problem at all when pursuing a career in maternal and child health nursing - it means you get nurses who are passionate about their career path and anyone will go to any lengths to get there if they want to. I have put in 5 years of study to get where I am today and I wouldn't change any of it! You need all 5 years to understand the full roll of a maternal and child health nurse.

There is no absolutely no doubt in this world that you need both nursing AND midwifery qualifications to become a maternal and child health nurse. I am consistently drawing on knowledge from BOTH my qualifications in this role. There is no way you can do this job without a background in midwifery. If you take this away then it takes out completely the title "maternal" in maternal and child health nursing.

Both nurses I work with as well as myself have mentioned this to mother's and every single one of them have said they want their nurses to have both nursing and midwifery qualifications and that it is a real concern if we lose this. They are worried about their quality of care if they do not have experienced nurses and midwives.

PLEASE reconsider. We have the best maternal and child health service in Australia and we should not let that go. We should be proud of this! The community needs us and you will never have a problem finding people to do the courses to get there. So many people are passionate about it and all are willing to put in the hard work to get there!

Respect nurses and their knowledge - the community and our families need it. Ask any mother or father with a child.

Thankyou.

Kind Regards,

Andrea Furness.