

My name is Leonie Delaney and I have been practising as a Maternal and Child Health Nurse in Victoria since January 2009. I currently work with Moonee Valley City Council 3.5 days/week and am employed as one of the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Nurses.

I am currently registered as a general nurse and midwife with AHPRA. I completed my general training in 1992 at St. Vincent's Hospital, received a Post Graduate Diploma in Midwifery from La Trobe University in 1999, and Masters Degree in Child, Family and Community Nursing Science from La Trobe University in 2008. I also received a Department of Human Services Scholarship to complete my Maternal and Child Health studies, without which I would not have been able to undertake the course.

I am very concerned about elements of the Early Childhood Development Draft Report and the "child health workforce", particularly with recommendations 12.2 and 12.3 questioning scholarship provisions and removal of midwifery qualifications as a prerequisite to study Maternal and Child Health Nursing. I strongly oppose the removal of a midwifery qualification as a prerequisite to studying MCH Nursing.

Every day that I go to work I use the knowledge and experience gained from my midwifery training and practice within my professional practice as a Maternal and Child health Nurse. It has enabled me to provide the highest standard of care to clients I meet. I also believe that my registered Nurse training is also vitally important as it has provided me with a foundation of knowledge required to understand many of the medical and surgical issues faced by both parents and children.

I believe that Victorian Maternal and Child Health Nurses provide the best quality of care throughout Australia. The requirement to be a Midwife as well as Registered General Nurse prior to commencing post-graduate study should be the cornerstone to providing the best quality Maternal and Child Health Nursing care for all of Australia.

Thank-you for considering my comments and I would be happy to discuss these issues further should the Commission decide to consult with the Victorian MCH Nursing workforce.

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Family Services