

Dear Sir/Madam

I have recently trained as a Maternal and Child Health Nurse after 20 years experience as a Division 1 RN and Midwife.

Maternal and Child Health Nursing typifies the adage is that "when you know better you do better". Without my background training as a nurse and midwife recognising complex conditions such as post-natal depression and risk of suicide, vulnerable families, children at risk of harm, childhood obesity, could become seriously impaired. Maternal and Child Health Nursing is not just weighing and measuring babies. The position is much more complex.

No other profession expects junior, minimally trained staff to deal with situations that possibly compromise families long term health outcomes. Preventative health is more cost effective than cost cutting.

For experienced nurses Commonwealth Supported University places provide vital funding to pursuing this qualification.

Do not underestimate the value of an experienced Registered Nurse/Midwife/Maternal and Child Health Nurse. Government cost cutting measures could have long term disadvantages on society already struggling to cope with social and economic repercussions.

Regards

Janet Mathes (Family and Child Health Student RMIT)