

29th August 2011-08-29
Mr. Ben Mc Lean
Early Childhood Development Workforce Study
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic 8003

Education and Training Workforce: Early Childhood Development *Workforce Study*

Dear Mr. Mc Lean,

My name is Kim Beers, I am currently an employed midwife, working in an acute emergency department, and a student Maternal and Child Health Nurse.

I am writing in regard to recommendations 12.3 of the draft report referring to midwifery qualifications as an obstacle to attracting nursing staff to the field of child health nurses.

This perspective is deeply concerning, as the depth of education required for the effective clinical management of women and their newborn infants within the community cannot be emphasised enough. The evidence to support young children and their families to get a positive start in life, to enhance development and minimise adverse outcomes, begins with the first home visit within days of birth. A midwifery qualification is an essential component to the knowledge base required by the visiting nurse.

Your sincerely

Kim Beers