

Early Childhood Development Workforce Study

Productivity Commission

LB 2 Collins St

Melbourne

My name is Cynthia Garnet and I have practised as a maternal and child health nurse in Victoria for 15yrs. I work in Melbourne and also on the 24hr maternal child health advise phone line.

I am registered as a midwife and nurse with Bachelor of Nursing completed in 1990 and Graduate Diploma in Child and Family Health from RMIT in 1995. My years of study have complemented my general nursing degree and have been invaluable in forfilling my role as a maternal child health nurse in the community.

I am concerned about recommendations 12.3 and 12.2 in Chapter 12 of the Early Childhood Development Draft Report, and the "Child Health Workforce".

Removal of midwifery as a qualification prerequisite for MCH nurse and questioning the value of MCHN scholarships is of concern. I believe this recommendation would reduce the quality of the Victorian MCH nursing service.

Draft recommendation 12.3: I strongly oppose the removal of midwifery as a prerequisite for MCH nurses. Having midwifery knowledge is critical to managing a mother and family particularly now with early discharge from hospital .

I thank theCommission for considering my comments above.

I hope that the strengths of the Victorian MCH nursing can be adopted by all states it is a unique and valuable service for all young families.

Regards

Cynthia Garnet