

Christine Shand

28 August, 2011

Early Childhood Development Workforce Study
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East
Melbourne, Vic 8003

Dear Sir,

My name is Christine Shand and I am currently practicing as a maternal and child health nurse in Melbourne. I have been working between three municipalities since the beginning of the year.

I completed my general nursing training in 1985 at PANCH and my midwifery training in 1989 at The Royal Women's Hospital. I completed a Postgraduate Diploma of Nursing Science in Child, Family and Community at La Trobe University in 2010.

My submission relates to the recommendations stated in Chapter 12 of the Early Childhood Development Draft Report and the "Child Health Workforce".

Draft Recommendation 12.2.

The provision of scholarship programs and the opportunity to pursue further education in child health is important in providing a high quality service.

An advertisement by Bayside municipal council in the local newspaper offering scholarships to undertake Maternal and Child Health training lead me to explore this career option and opened up the opportunity to attend La Trobe University to study Postgraduate Diploma of Nursing Science in Child, Family and Community. With three school age children to support, I could not have attended university without the financial aid offered to me in the form of a scholarship.

Draft recommendation 12.3

I draw on knowledge and utilise skills gained through my midwifery training and experience frequently when dealing with young families in my role as a Maternal and Child Health nurse. Midwifery skills include breastfeeding support and advice, education on the recovery process from having given birth, advice on symptoms of postnatal complications such as secondary haemorrhage, urinary tract infections, mastitis, post natal depression, pelvic floor care and continence and general care of the newborn baby including cord care and hygiene. The above areas are learnt during midwifery training and many women are dependant on their Maternal and Child Health nurse for advice in these areas especially with early discharge from hospital following birth.

The requirement to being a registered nurse and registered midwife prior to becoming a Maternal and Child Health Nurse is vital if a high quality Maternal and Child Health service is to continue. Providing high quality education and support to young families in Victoria should not be reduced in order to be in line with the lower standards required by other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Shand