



Media Release

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Bachelor of nursing programs must stay in universities to maintain patient safety

University educated Registered Nurses have been demonstrated to provide a safer level of nursing care. Every report into nursing for the past 25 years has recognised the need for university based education for Registered Nurses and successive national state and territory governments have supported this.

“The education of Registered Nurses to practise in Australia has been conducted in the university sector since the late 1980s. The move away from a hospital based on- the-job training to a university education was intended to and indeed has advanced the quality of nursing education for Registered Nurses” said Professor Mary Chiarella, ANMC Chairperson.

“The ANMC position statement on Registered Nurse and Midwife education in Australia sets out the need for university education for Registered Nurses. It is therefore of significant concern that a Bachelor of Nursing program has been approved for delivery in the TAFE sector in Victoria. This has the potential to lower the standard of registered nurse education.”

“It is critical in these times of increasing technology and changing health care environments that nurses and midwives are appropriately educated in order to provide safe and competent care to the Australian public.” said Ms Karen Cook, CEO of ANMC.

“This decision causes great concern in terms of protection of the public as it is contrary to the evidence which supports the need to educate registered nurses in the university sector.” said Ms Cook

To arrange an interview – contact **Karen Cook**, CEO of the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council on **02 6274 9108** or **0410 663 895**

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) is the peak organisation comprising membership of all state and territory Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs). The ANMC provides leadership and expertise in setting national standards for the nursing and midwifery professions, working with the NMRAs and consulting widely with health professionals and consumers to establish standards which are flexible, effective and responsive to the health care requirements of the Australian population.

It is also the national body that assesses the qualifications of overseas nurses and midwives for migration purposes.