

**WP/SEAR Communiqué**  
**‘Supporting and Managing Change’**  
**30-31 October 2008**

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities from the Western Pacific and South East Asian Regions (WP/SEAR) was held in Singapore on 30-31 October 2008. The meeting was hosted by the Singapore Nursing Board in conjunction with the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council, which provided secretariat support for the meeting. The event was also generously supported by the Australian development agency, AusAID, as well as the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Authorities. 70 delegates attended from over 20 countries within the regions.

The purpose of WP/SEAR is to provide a forum for the continued development of collaborative and productive relationships and networking between regulatory authorities in the region in order to deliver their mandate of protecting the public. Recognising the importance of these relationships and the significance to health care systems of patient care and regulation, five key topics were examined under the meeting's theme of *‘Supporting and Managing Change’*; international meetings within the region and their outcomes; ensuring competence through education; shared experiences from mentors and mentees; updates on nursing regulation in member countries and managing a changing regulatory environment.

**Outcomes from International meetings**

Delegates provided feedback from recent international nursing and midwifery meetings. Attendance at these meetings strengthens international collaboration among nursing and midwifery authorities.

**Ensuring Competence through Education**

Better health outcomes are achieved when they are delivered by capable and competent nurses and midwives who continue to be trained, educated and supported through a regulatory framework.

**Mentoring: Shared experiences from mentors and mentees**

Mentoring between boards of countries with different levels of regulatory experience facilitates learning, builds relationships and is a vital tool in protecting the public. Delegates shared their experiences of their mentor relationships.

**Nursing & Midwifery Regulation**

Regulation of nurses and midwives continues to be the major focus of the WP/SEAR meeting as it ensures competent and safe nursing and midwifery care providing protection of the public. The WP/SEAR meeting continues to serve as an information sharing resource for regulatory authorities. Delegates were updated on regulation in member countries and discussed issues surrounding managing a changing regulatory environment.

**Resolutions**

Following the 7<sup>th</sup> WP/SEAR meeting the following resolutions were made:

1. That the members of WP/SEAR approach the South Pacific Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers Alliance and the South Pacific Nurses Forum with a view to coordinating the three meetings in such a way that each group retains its unique identity and is able to meet independently and also meet together to discuss issues of mutual concern.

2. That the mentoring program developed by ANMC be maintained and expanded.
3. That the WP/SEAR meeting establish formal communication with the International Confederation of Midwives Regulation Committee.

### **Into the Future**

Recognising the essential contributions that nurses and midwives make to improving health and health care delivery within the region, the delegates present at this meeting undertake to work in close collaboration with leaders of national nursing and midwifery associations and regulatory bodies at a local, national and international level to build upon the progress made since the inaugural WP/SEAR meeting and address the current issues that have been raised.

The delegates pledged to unite in the common goal of protecting the public through the effective regulation of nurses and midwives and agreed to review the progress towards this goal at the next WP/SEAR meeting in 2010.