

Submission for the Productivity Commission, Early Childhood Development Workforce Study

My name is Marian Drew. I am a practising Maternal and Child Health Nurse and have been employed in Victoria for many years. I was initially registered as a General Nurse in 1975, a Midwife in 1977 and as an MCHN in 1983.

My experience as an MCHN encompasses the rural and suburban Melbourne community.

I have worked extensively in relieving positions as well as three long term permanent positions in three Local Government Areas. I am currently employed on the MCHN telephone line.

I am particularly concerned with the Draft Recommendation 12.3.

I am strongly opposed to the removal of midwifery as a qualification prerequisite for MCHN.

A vital part of the role of the MCHN while working with families is the understanding of the process the families have encountered along the way to parenting.

This journey may encompass and require knowledge of:

1. Ante Natal care, tests and procedures provided;
2. Infertility and IVF treatment;
3. Most importantly, knowledge of the delivery process and subsequent post care when complications arise;
4. Cultural aspects in childbirth and parenting;
5. Establishment and maintenance of breast feeding.

These above five points are an example only of the broader picture, where there can be no separation in care of the child without that of the Mother and the family.

There are many layers of knowledge built upon over years of study and experience that must not go unnoticed in the overall assessment and service delivery to our Community. The feedback from families I have worked with over my career, of their respect of the broad knowledge and support provided, often goes unnoticed to service planners.

I strongly believe that my broad training as a General Nurse and Midwife as a base to MCHN has allowed me to deliver quality care to Victorian families and I reject the removal of Midwifery as a prerequisite for Maternal and Child Health Nursing.

Marian Drew

MCHN