

# Social Charter

## for nursing and midwifery in Queensland

A social charter is a joint statement by those who share common views. The Social Charter for Nursing and Midwifery in Queensland is a brief statement recognising the broad expectations and mutual obligations of nurses, midwives and the community regarding their roles.

As health needs and expectations change over time, so will the Social Charter for Nursing and Midwifery in Queensland. Nurses, midwives, the community and signatories to the social charter will review it annually to ensure that it remains relevant to the needs and expectations of all parties.

The community and the nursing and midwifery professions are committed to the continuing improvement of the health care system within a framework of social justice and equity. The Social Charter for Nursing and Midwifery in Queensland reflects the commitment of the community and the nursing and midwifery professions to this framework.

The community, nurses and midwives have the following obligations and expectations:

### **PARTNERSHIP**

- A unique relationship exists between nurses, midwives and those people who seek nursing and midwifery services.
- Nurses and midwives develop partnerships with individuals and groups requiring nursing and midwifery services to assist them to achieve optimum health and well-being.
- The nursing and midwifery professions together with the community will work towards creating new and innovative health policy and effective models of nursing and midwifery that are responsive to the needs and rights of all.
- Nurses, midwives and the community recognise the important role nurses and midwives have in ensuring individuals are provided with comprehensive, meaningful information to enable them to make informed decisions about their care.

### **VALUING**

- The community, nurses and midwives recognise their mutual obligation to treat each other with respect and dignity.
- Nurses and midwives value their own and other's personal health and safety.
- Nurses and midwives value and support community participation in the development of nursing and midwifery services and health policy generally.
- The community values the varied and important roles of nurses and midwives in providing health services.
- Nurses and midwives have an obligation to value and support each other and respect the role each has in providing nursing and midwifery services.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

The community, nursing and midwifery profession expect:

- Nurses and midwives will strive to promote safe, quality, evidence-based health care with the utmost respect for, and protection of, the personal values, rights and responsibilities of people needing health care.
- Nursing and midwifery services are provided by nurses and midwives in the community, residential facilities, general practice, hospitals and hospices for people of all ages.
- Nurses and midwives will maintain and advance their knowledge and skills to provide nursing and midwifery services in the health setting in which they practise.
- Nurses and midwives collaborate with other health practitioners to provide the best possible client focused care.
- Nurses and midwives work with individuals and the community to achieve optimal health and well-being outcomes for all.
- Nurses and midwives will actively participate in the development of health policy and health services at leadership level.
- The community will actively participate in the development of health policy and services.
- Resources are available to nurses and midwives to support the achievement of optimum health and well-being outcomes in a safe environment for all.
- Nurses and midwives are accountable for services they provide.