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To The Productivity Commissioner
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Productivity Commission Submission Early Childhood Development

As Manager of Community Development with Moira Shire Council I have responsibilities across the delivery of services across the early years including Maternal and Child Health.

I would like to offer feedback to the productivity commissioner and its draft report recommending changes to this valuable service.

Regarding the recommendations 12.3 and 12.2 of the Early Childhood Development Draft Report I offer the following feedback;

1. The value of midwifery qualifications to the service provided by Maternal and Child Health Nurses for our young people is undeniable. At a time where vulnerable families in our community are at increasing risk, the importance of providing high quality advice to new parents is greater than ever before.

The holistic approach and range of issue covered in midwifery training is arguably the most valuable component of what makes our service of high quality. To remove this requirement from those required to provide our Maternal and Child Health service would be lessen the quality of care.

2. As a rural municipality, we battle with the challenge of recruiting, training and retaining Maternal and Child Health Nurses.

Whilst actively seeking to recruit prospective MaCH nurses, one barrier that exists is that of the financial outlay required to undertake necessary studies.

The workload balance for our team factors in the breadth of the municipality, population distribution and the number of children accessing our services. The result is the need for a part time workforce that lessens the viability investment in training both in terms of time and financial outlay.

I strongly support the maintaining, infact expansion of scholarship programs to encourage nurses to further expand their level of training to provide this valuable service.



I wish the productivity commission well in its deliberations of feedback to draft recommendations and trust that rurally specific considerations such as that identified in my response are considered.

Yours Sincerely,

David Booth
Manager, Community Development