

Dear Commissioner,

The Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) Federal Office would like to make a statement in relation to the Productivity Commissions Vocational Education and Training Workforce Draft Research Report.

The ANF would like to acknowledge that the draft report is a comprehensive and robust document that captures many of the issues facing the VET workforce today. However, the ANF believes that the report neglects to address the real impact low wages for trainees and apprentices studying in the VET sector has on the recruitment and retention of these students in their chosen vocations, and the consequent effect this has on VET workforce planning.

It is the belief of the ANF that VET students avoid entering and often exit prematurely, traineeships and long term apprenticeships due to the low wages they receive during their period of study in the VET sector. This of course, has a direct impact on enrolment rates which in turn has a direct impact on Registered Training Organisation's (RTO's) ability to plan for and provide quality courses delivered by qualified and experienced educational staff.

It is the belief of the ANF that these matters need to be taken into consideration by the Productivity Commission when finalising the VET Workforce report.

The ANF Federal Education Officer is available to provide further information to the Productivity Commission on this matter should it so desire.

Your sincerely

Jodie Davis

Federal Education Officer
Australian Nursing Federation