



Martin Rocks
Director
Social and Cultural Determinants of Health Working Group
Implementation Plan Taskforce
Indigenous Health Division
Department of Health

By email: mylifemylead@health.gov.au

Dear Mr Rocks,

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) would like to offer its support of The Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives' (CATSINaM) submission to the NATSIHP Implementation Plan national consultation. We reiterate the need for stronger focus on building an appropriately trained and culturally safe health workforce to support closing the gap in outcomes.

ACN through funding by the Australian Government Department of Health, administers the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme. The scheme has proven to be highly effective in supporting scholars complete their studies and achieve employment as a professional in the healthcare workforce.

There is extensive interest in the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme from registered and enrolled nurses, with a higher number of eligible applicants received compared to the number of available scholarships. Due to their success, ACN believes there should be a significant expansion in the number made available.

Scholars tend to have a broad range of community and family responsibilities and are often the primary income earners. We adopt a flexible approach to scholarship design and administration so scholars are supported as they manage these multiple responsibilities without compromising the completion of their nursing degree. Scholarships not only reduce stressors associated with the costs of tertiary education, but alleviate other pressures related to the social and cultural determinants of health that impact on scholars. These scholarships support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery Workforce.

ACN supports the need for a dedicated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Strategy as well as a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Cultural Determinants of Health Strategy as key requirements in achieving health equity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Ward".

Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward
Chief Executive Officer
RN, MMgt, Dip App Sci (Nursing), Acute Care Cert, FACN, Wharton Fellow, MAICD

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