



Department of Health

By email: Preventive.Policy@health.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for contacting the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) last month regarding the draft *National Action plan for the Health of Children and Young People*. As the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession, and a community of dynamic and passionate nurses, ACN welcomes opportunities to provide feedback on quality health care initiatives for children and young people.

When developing ACN's contribution to this strategy, we consulted our wide member base of nurse academics, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and enrolled nurses for their input. Given the scale and importance of this issue, we also encouraged our members to lodge individual submissions.

Of greatest significance to our members was the adoption of measures already part of COAG's *Healthy, Safe and Thriving* report, particularly around the focus on the 0 – 24 age group, and the short, medium and long term actions to implement its five strategic priorities. Additionally, the report should take into account the overarching policy environment, identifying gaps and emerging issues to ensure health system resources at the national and jurisdictional levels are efficiently directed at addressing health issues affecting children and young people.

Of the thirteen priority actions for implementation, our members determined the following four as having the greatest impact:

- Priority Area 1 - Enhance services for rural and remote areas
- Priority Area 2 - Expand parenting support for families, especially families living with adversity
- Priority Area 3 - Increase investment in research, policy and practice translation
- Priority Area 4 - Commit to ongoing nationally consistent data collection

ACN appreciates the meticulous level of detail and hard work invested in the crafting of this draft paper, and eagerly awaits the release of the final Action Plan in the first half of 2019. If you have further enquiries regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Stapleton".

Dr. Carolyn Stapleton FACN
Manager - Policy and Advocacy

1 April 2019

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