

**Submission
No 24**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE No. 2
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO WORKFORCE ISSUES, WORKPLACE
CULTURE AND FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS FOR REMOTE, RURAL AND
REGIONAL HEALTH**

Organisation: Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

Date Received: 24 September 2023

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners response to:

**NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SELECT COMMITTEE ON REMOTE, RURAL AND
REGIONAL HEALTH**

- **INQUIRY INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PORTFOLIO
COMMITTEE NO. 2 RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO
WORKFORCE ISSUES, WORKPLACE CULTURE AND
FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS FOR REMOTE, RURAL AND
REGIONAL HEALTH**

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

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20 September 2023

Dr Joe McGirr
Committee Chair
Select Committee on Remote, Rural and Regional Health
Parliament of New South Wales
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia

By email: remoteruralregionalhealth@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Dr McGirr

Thank you for the invitation to provide a response to the issues relating to the implementation of Portfolio Committee No. 2 recommendations relating to workforce issues, workplace culture and funding for remote, rural and regional health services and programs. We have responded to the recommendations most relevant, or most significant to our organisation and our members.

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) is the national peak organisation for Nurse Practitioners, advancing nursing practice and consumer access to health care. A key focus for the role and scope of practice development for Nurse Practitioners is on unmet needs within the community and increasing access to health care.

Please find below our feedback:

Recommendation 1 – ACNP supports reviewing of funding models, however funding must include access to all health professionals, including nurse practitioners, who often work as primary care providers and/or specialist care providers. Funding should be based on type of health service provided, not type of provider.

Recommendation 7 – The NSW Government should also engage with the Australian Government on how to implement the Nurse Practitioner Workforce Plan to support the provision of health care in NSW.

Recommendation 8 – growth strategies in primary care sector should include utilisation of the nurse

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practitioner workforce, and enabling them to work to their full abilities and scope of practice.

Recommendation 11 - The ACNP supports the call for the development of a 10-Year Rural and Remote Medical and Health Workforce Recruitment and Retention Strategy. However, it is imperative that this strategy recognises and fully integrates the vital role of nurse practitioners in addressing healthcare shortages and enhancing the quality of care provided in these underserved regions. Nurse practitioners bring advanced clinical skills, a collaborative approach, and a patient-centred focus to the healthcare landscape, making them indispensable in bridging the healthcare gap. It is also vital that the strategy addresses more critical needs in a much shorter timeframe.

Recommendation 12- neglects to include nurse practitioners. Nurse practitioners are well-positioned to provide comprehensive primary care services, including diagnosis, treatment, and management of various health conditions, making them key contributors to improved health outcomes. Their flexibility to adapt to different healthcare settings, coupled with their cost-effectiveness and high patient satisfaction rates, underscores the importance of including them more comprehensively in the proposed recommendation. By doing so, NSW Health can harness the full potential of nurse practitioners to achieve quantifiable targets for improved community-level health outcomes, workforce growth, provider coordination, and sustainability, ultimately ensuring that rural, regional, and remote communities receive the quality healthcare they deserve.

Recommendation 15 – Agree, however increased training positions for nursing graduates and nurse practitioners are also required.

Recommendation 16 – Agree

Recommendation 17 – Welcomed information, agreed

Recommendation 18 – Agree

Recommendation 20 – Supported

Recommendation 21 – Supported

Recommendation 22 – Supported

Recommendation 23 – Strongly suggest inclusion of key nursing groups, as nurses and nurse practitioners are integral in provision of Palliative care. Consider Palliative Care Australia, Palliative Care Nurses Association, and Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

Recommendations 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 – Supported

Recommendation 30 – Nurse Practitioners deliver holistic, accessible, and cost-effective care to underserved populations. Inclusion of nurse practitioners in Recommendation 30 will ensure a more sustainable and accessible healthcare system in rural, regional, and remote NSW, ultimately

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benefiting both healthcare providers and the communities they serve.

Recommendations 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 – Agree

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important review.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Boase




Chief Executive Officer

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