



9 September 2008

Ms Bronwyn Nardi,  
Chair  
Practitioner Regulation Subcommittee  
Of the Health Workforce Principle Committee  
By email: NRAIP@dhs.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Nardi,

**Re: submission to consultation paper on issues supplementary to the intergovernmental agreement on a national registration and accreditation scheme for the health professionals to be included in the first Bill.**

The Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) was established in 1924. The ANF is the national union for nurses and midwives and Assistants in Nursing, with Branches in each state and territory of Australia.

The ANF is also the largest professional organisation in Australia, with a membership of over 170,000 nurses, employed in a wide range of enterprises in urban, rural and remote locations in both the public and private sectors. The ANF's core business is the industrial and professional representation of our membership.

The ANF participates in the development of policy in nursing, nursing regulation, health, community services, veteran's affairs, education and training, occupational health and safety, industrial relations, immigration and law reform.

The ANF understands the importance of the legislation passing through Parliament shortly with respect to the national registration and accreditation scheme and we strongly support the submission you have received from the Australian Peak Nursing and Midwifery Forum of which the ANF is a member and holds the role of Secretariat.

In the APNMF submission there is reference to the hearing of disciplinary matters, in which the ANF has deep interest. In the APNMF submission it is recommended that the process of hearing disciplinary matters must be underpinned by the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. The ANF agrees with those principles but it is necessary to add for our members who may face disciplinary procedures it is vitally important they also have access to legal representation throughout the process.

We acknowledge further consultation papers will be released between September and December and the ANF and APNMF will respond to these as necessary.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ged Kearney".

Ged Kearney  
Federal Secretary

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**ANF Journals**

Australian Nursing Journal  
Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing  
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