assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled)

It is the policy of the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation that:

1. Assistants in nursing should be regulated under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (National Law).

2. Assistants in nursing must be referred to by common nomenclature. The most appropriate title for this class of worker is assistant in nursing (AIN) and should be the nationally protected title recognised under the National Law.

3. Regulation would afford assistants in nursing a recognised Professional Practice Framework, incorporating national codes, guidelines and standards, and a scope of practice.

4. Nationally accredited education and training for assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) must be provided to ensure the safety and dignity of individuals receiving care and to enable assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) to practice safely and competently.

5. The educational preparation of assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) should be in accordance with nationally recognised education from industry agreed training packages which meet the standards required for work with the health and community services sectors. There should be a minimum level of education mandated nationally, at Certificate III level, to ensure consistent educational preparation.

6. All education for health and community services workers including assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) should recognise prior learning and experience and should be provided within the vocational education and training (VET) sector by a Registered Training Organisation or a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Institute with the required qualification on their scope of registration.

7. Any requirement for student clinical placement of assistants in nursing or other unlicensed workers (however titled) during their education and training should only be conducted in settings which are commensurate with their level of skill and knowledge.

8. Assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) provide aspects of nursing care to patients and/or residents according to the nursing care plan. Consequently, this level of worker must be supervised and assessed by a registered nurse during their period of clinical training and thereafter.

9. Formal articulation and recognition of prior learning arrangements should be developed and implemented between VET Certificate III and Certificate IV courses for assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) and the Diploma of Nursing qualification that lead to registration as an enrolled nurse.

10. Assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) should have equitable access to continuing educational opportunities and study leave provisions.

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This position statement should be read in conjunction with anf position statement Assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) providing aspects of nursing or midwifery care.

anmf policy – education: assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled)