

The Australian Bachelor of Midwifery (BMid) Education Newsletter

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ACMI Endorses and Funds The BMid Project

BMid Project Officer

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BMid Project Coordinator

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As described in the last newsletter, Flinders University and the University of South Australia Midwifery Education working party hosted a 2-day Bachelor of Midwifery Planning meeting in Adelaide in December 1999. Invited were at least one midwifery lecturer from each state whose university had shown interest in a Bachelor of Midwifery (BMid) and had been working towards developing a programme. The two SA universities and the ACT and SA branches of ACMI funded this meeting with numbers restricted to 20 due to cost and the need to have a productive meeting with consensus decision making. At the meeting a national BMid taskforce was named, guidelines for a national framework for BMid education were agreed and there was a recommendation that the ACMI should become the accrediting body, in conjunction with the registering authorities, of BMid courses.

A timeline for the progression of the BMid project was formulated and it was decided that a proposal be sent to the ACMI requesting endorsement and funding for the BMid Education Project.

This proposal was presented to the National ACMI Executive Committee at their national meeting in Melbourne by Nicky Leap. The ACMI Executive Committee endorsed the project as an ACMI project and agreed to provide the requested \$25,000 in funding.

The BMid Taskforce, what has been happening?

Details regarding the ACMI funding, revising the proposed budget and plans for distributing the money to the BMid Project have been sorted out by the Project Officer. A proposal for funding from the National Women's Non-Government Organisations Funding Programme 2000-2001 was sent as a joint project from the Project Officer and the President of ACMI, Vanessa Owen.

Thank you to the NSW Branch who have donated \$750 for the BMid Project.

The members of the taskforce have been communicating via email and are meeting in Melbourne in July. Contact is being made with Nurses' Boards at a state level throughout the country.

A State/Territory Report

South Australia

The Flinders University/University of South Australia Midwifery Education working party continue to meet to develop a BMid curriculum. A Course Advisory Committee (CAC) has been formed and has met twice. Membership of this committee includes the ACMI, consumers, independent midwives, midwifery managers from both metropolitan and country health care services and the ANF.

Bachelor of Midwifery Taskforce:

Role: to make decisions, recommendations and promotion of BMid programmes.

Coordinator - Nicky Leap

WA: Carol Thorogood

SA: Jan Pincombe

TAS: Trish David

VIC: Diane Cutts

NSW: Hilary Hunter

ACT: Jenny Browne

QLD: Kathleen Fahy

NT: Bev Turnbull

AMAP: Sally Tracy

Regulatory: Maree Markus

ACMI: Trish Schneider

Project Officer: Jackie Kitschke

Victoria & Tasmania

RMIT, Monash University, the Australian Catholic University and the University of Tasmania have formed a consortium to introduce a BMid programme collaboratively.

Canberra

"We are currently organising a B Mid forum between the ACMI and the newly formed Maternity Coalition Inc (ACT Branch). The University of Canberra Midwifery Curriculum Sub-committee, which consists of consumer and midwife and women's health representatives, tabled a recommendation last week urging the University to be proactive in the move towards non-nurse midwifery. Useful communications are happening within the School of Nursing at the University of Canberra about a possible commencement date for a Bachelor of Midwifery program. The ACT's next big task is to open formal dialogue with the Nurses Board of the ACT. This is on the agenda for discussion at the ACMI branch meeting in July."

Western Australia

ACMI WA held a seminar about BMid education that was well attended in May. The WA Nurses Board has raised the issue of BMid with the State Minister of Health. Another discussion paper is currently being developed around the issues of the introduction of a BMid programme by the Nurses' Board with involvement from the ACMI National Taskforce WA representative.

Northern Territory

BMid information forums have been held in June in Alice Springs and Darwin.

Queensland

A letter has been sent to the CEO of the Queensland Nursing Council and a meeting will be held after the next BMid meeting. BMid will be discussed at the ACMI Qld State Executive planning day on the 8/7/00.

New South Wales

Negotiations between The University of Technology, Sydney and Southern Cross University will continue to explore the possibility of commencing programmes in 2002.

Bachelor of Midwifery Ad hoc working party of taskforce:

Role: To be co-opted for political negotiations (e.g. DEETYA).

Lesley Barclay and Jill White

Bachelor of Midwifery International Reference Group:

Role: To inform and provide advice to BMid Taskforce.

NZCOM: Sally Pairman - New Zealand

Lesley Page - United Kingdom

Ann Thompson - United Kingdom

Anne Nixon - Canada

Potential Students

The number of people inquiring about becoming a midwife without being a nurse first is increasing. The BMid Education Project is collecting these inquiries on a database and currently there are 80 names on this list. If you know of someone who is interested in this entry into midwifery who would like some more information refer them to Jackie Kitschke the project officer at jackie.kitschke@flinders.edu.au or 82013442.