



23 June 2008

NATIONAL CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICER APPOINTED

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council today welcomed the announcement by Health Minister Nicola Roxon of the appointment of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer for Australia.

Rosemary Bryant the Executive Director of the Royal College of Nursing has been appointed to the position and brings with her over 30 years of diverse experience in both national and international roles.

“The establishment of the position of Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer has been long-awaited and will raise the profile of nurses and midwives within Government,” said Professor Mary Chiarella, Chairperson of the ANMC. “This position is crucial to ensure that the Australian government is well represented and informed on nursing and midwifery issues at a national and international level.”

“It is also important to provide a unified point of contact at the national level between the Australian government and the nursing and midwifery professions.”

The ANMC anticipates the new Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer will also ensure an appropriate level of international representation for Australia which is currently lacking in international nursing and midwifery forums.

“This would ensure that Australia is able to contribute to such meetings, consult and collaborate on international nursing and midwifery initiatives and so make sure that Australia is informed on and informing international trends and issues of global importance,” Professor Chiarella said.

The ANMC says that through the creation of this role the Rudd government has acknowledged the importance of nurses and midwives to the community and the health system.

The ANMC congratulates Ms Bryant on her appointment and looks forward to close collaboration and consultation on key professional and regulatory issues.

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- To arrange an interview – contact Karen **Cook**, CEO of the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council on **02 6274 9108** or **0410 663 895**
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