

## Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 2  
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### Submitter Comments:

Paediatric care is a specific medical specialist area and yet the nurses providing 24/7 care for children are not required to have speciality training. Some hospitals provide minimal paediatric training but the staff are not mandated to attend. Children are a vulnerable population due to their specific developmental needs. Unfortunately child have been known to die in acute care and community care settings from preventable circumstances. This could this be mitigated some what by the compulsory paediatric postgraduate training. Or compulsory paediatric topics in the BN program. Paediatric trained nurses and nurse practitioners play a critical role in providing specialised care for children. Their importance lies in several key factors: Specialized Knowledge and Skills: Paediatric nurses are trained in the unique physiological and developmental needs of children, which differ significantly from adults. This knowledge allows them to provide care that is not only appropriate for the child's physical health but also addresses their emotional and psychological well-being. Child-Centered Communication: Children, especially younger ones, may struggle to articulate their symptoms or concerns. Paediatric nurses are adept at using age-appropriate communication techniques to engage with children and their families, ensuring that the child's needs are understood and met. Developmentally Appropriate Care: Paediatric care requires an understanding of the various stages of child development. Nurses with paediatric training can tailor interventions to match the developmental stage of the child, ensuring that the care provided is both effective and comfortable for the patient. Advocacy and Support for Families: Families often need guidance and support when navigating a child's health issues. Paediatric nurses act as advocates, helping parents understand treatment plans, medications, and long-term care options, while providing emotional support during stressful times. Early Intervention and Prevention: Paediatric nurses are crucial in identifying early signs of illness or developmental delays, allowing for timely interventions. They also play a key role in preventive care, such as vaccinations and educating families on child health and safety. Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Paediatric nurses often work as part of a larger healthcare team that includes doctors, social workers, and therapists. Their specialized input ensures that the child's care plan is comprehensive and addresses all aspects of their health and development. In summary, paediatric nurses and nurse practitioners provide essential, specialized care that supports not only the physical health of children but also their developmental, emotional, and psychological needs. Their role is indispensable in both acute care settings and community health. Additionally, Paediatric Nurse Practitioners offer the expansion of services based in the community that can directly address children and family needs. This could be expanded by support from Medicare item numbers that remunerate NP for in-depth paediatric health assessments and developmental screening. This move would help to provide universal access to care and connections to allied health through referral pathways provided by NP. This is a unique opportunity to demonstrate how we value children and give them the best start to life. Associate Professor Yvonne Parry Chairperson

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