



20 March 2008

Professor Chris Baggoley
Chief Executive
Australian Commission on Safety and
Quality in Health Care
GPO Box 5480
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Professor Baggoley

National Patient Charter of Rights

Thank you for providing the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) with the opportunity to provide input into the development of a National Patient Charter of Rights. The ANMC is highly supportive of this initiative.

The ANMC was established in 1992 to facilitate a national approach to nursing and midwifery regulation. It is the peak body that works with state and territory Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) in evolving standards for statutory nursing and midwifery regulation. These standards are flexible, effective and responsive to the health care requirements of the Australian population.

The ANMC's prime function is to protect public safety in the provision of healthcare through ensuring the nurses and midwives being regulated are competent to practice. As such this submission will limit its comment to the third Right, *Safety: Promoting safe and competent care*.

The ANMC believes that there are two issues for consideration in this right. The first issue with regard to public safety in the provision of care, is **ensuring that the health professionals providing care are registered with the appropriate regulatory body as per the relevant legislation**. The second issue relates to **ensuring that those who are providing care are competent to do so**. Therefore we would suggest that these two tenets are articulated at the start of this Right.

We would suggest that the third dot point in Principle 3 becomes the **first** dot point and reads **"care that is provided by the most appropriate health professional, and that the health professional is registered with the relevant professional body and assessed as competent to provide that care"**.

Once again the ANMC welcomes the opportunity to comment on this important initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Cook', is positioned above the typed name.

Karen Cook
Chief Executive Officer