



Ms Anne Copeland
Chair Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
c/- National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project,
PO Box 2089, WODEN ACT 2606

Dear Ms Copeland
The following is a response from the Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses in relation to the consultation paper issued by the Nursing and Midwifery Board.

**This response focuses on Domain 2 Curriculum Standard Five:
Curriculum Content Criteria 4.**

Foundation Knowledge

- The developmental and biological needs of children are different to adults.
- Undergraduate Nurses need to have foundation knowledge of the developmental and biological differences between a child and adult.

Contemporary Knowledge and Skills

- This area needs to include an introduction to children and young people's health and how this impacts upon the life course
- There is strong evidence that the chronic disease prevention needs to commence in the antenatal period, early childhood and in adolescence. Nursing students need to have knowledge and skills relating to these issues.

Some of the national priorities diseases have their origins in the antenatal period or in childhood. The following is some of the evidence available:

National Priority	Evidence of origin in childhood
Asthma	Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke as an infant is a precursor to childhood asthma (8% of asthma in children less than 15 years is attributable to household smoking ¹⁾
Cardiovascular disease	Low birth weight infants are at risk of increased risk of developing high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease as adults ² . For infants with a birthweight less than 2500 grams ³ research has shown the odds ratio for end stage renal disease in adulthood was 1.4 times compared with infants who weighed 3 to 3.5 kilograms. Studies in Finland, ^{4 5} have found that low birth weight is a predictor for coronary heart disease in both women and men.
Mental Health Issues	The evidence strongly suggests that there are an effective range of interventions in promoting positive mental well-being, and hence reducing key risk factors for mental illness in children ⁶ . The body of knowledge around the impact of infant attachment and temperament and the later effects on adult relationships and mental illness means that this topic cannot be ignored in the undergraduate program ⁷
Obesity	Women who are obese in pregnancy are more likely to have an obese child ⁸ . Breast fed infants are less likely to be obese compared to formula fed infants ^{9 10} .

I hope the above information will be considered positively by the project team and that skills and knowledge relating to children and young people's health be a requirement not an elective in the curriculum.

Yours Sincerely

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- ¹ World Health Organisation (1999). International Consultation on Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) and Child Health. Geneva, Switzerland, WHO.)
- ² Hack, M., M. Klein, et al. (1995). "Long term developmental outcomes of low birthweight infants." *The Future of Children* 5(1): 11.
- ³ DT Lackland, HE Bendall, C Osmond, BM Egan, and DJP Barker (2000), 'Low birth weights contribute to the high rates of early onset chronic renal failure in Southeastern United States', *Archives of Internal Medicine*, May 22, 160i10, p.1472.
- ⁴ T Forsen, JG Eriksson, J Tuomilehto, C. Osmond, DJ Barker, (199'9) Growth in utero and during childhood among women who develop coronary heart disease: a longitudinal study', *British Medical Journal*, Nov 27, v319,I 222,,p.1403.
- ⁵ T Forsen, JG Eriksson, J Tuomilehto, C. Osmond, DJ Barker, (1997) 'Mothers weight in pregnancy and coronary heart disease in a cohort of Finnish men: follow up study', *British Medical Journal*, Oct 4, 315, 7112 , P.837-841.
- ⁶ Tennant R; Goens C; Barlow J; Day C; Stewart-Brown S; A systematic Review of intervention to promote mental health and to prevent mental health problems in children and young people *Journal of Public Mental Health*, 2007 Mar; 6 (1): 25-32
- ⁷ Seed MS; Higgins S, (2003), Intergrating mental ill ness prevention into community based undergraduate program, *Journal of Nursing Education*, Jan; 42 (1): 8-12
- ⁸ Oken E, Taveras EM, Kleinman KP, Rich-Edwards JW, Gillman MW (2007) Gestational weight gain and child adiposity at age 3 years. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.196, 4:322, e1-8.
- ⁹ Arenz S, Ruckerl R, Koletzko B, vonKries R.(2004) Breast-feeding and childhood obesity: a systematic review. *Int J Obes Relat Metab Disord*;28:1247-56.
- ¹⁰ Owen CG, Martin RM, Whincup PH, et al (2005). Effect of infant feeding on the risk of obesity across the life course: a quantitative review of published evidence. *Pediatrics* 2005;115:1367-77.