



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QToN No. 2

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Recovery Plan for Nursing and Midwifery Workers
HEARING TRANSCRIPT EXTRACT FOR QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE (QToN)
14 June 2023

Asked by **MR MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA** on 14 June 2023: Dr Bazargan took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: *Hansard transcript* 14 June 2023, pages 28-29

In relation to:

- *Data on numbers of students in UC nursing/midwifery courses - intake/recruitment, attrition/retention, graduation rates, after graduation stay in ACT vs relocation to interstate/overseas*

MR PETTERSSON: Just a supplementary on that.

Do you have any figures or data on graduation rates for midwifery students?

Dr Bazargan: We have. We can provide exact graduation rates of last few years. But, as I said, I am new at University of Canberra, but this year we are looking for graduation of maybe maximum 18 students, just one eight.

MR PETTERSSON: Okay.

Dr Bazargan: 18, yes. And last year they had I think around 22. But we have this data. This is a kind of—we can provide you with a formal and accurate.

MR PETTERSSON: That data would be very useful.

Dr Bazargan: Yes.

MR PETTERSSON: There is a part of your submission, when you talk about how recruitment and retention have changed a lot in the past 10 years. Previously midwifery staff was stable, and we had local graduates that actually had to move interstate to try and find a job. When did that start to take place? I would be very curious to know.

Dr Bazargan: My information about ACT will be very limited, considering I just joined—moved here in January. But my own experience—

MR PETTERSSON: Welcome to town—

Dr Bazargan: My own experience being in the past—yes, we had especially—for example, I can give you another estate that our students had to compete for that graduate entry positions. But recently all of the graduates, they can easily get the position because we have more positions than the graduates. And in ACT, what I learned in during the period which I have been here, it has been for the last, I would say, three/four years. The number of graduates is much smaller than the number of graduate positions.

And we know that few graduates, they would love to move interstate or move overseas, especially New Zealand, because of the model of care that they have.

But fortunately Australia now is moving to the same model of care, hopefully gradually, and we will have more of those graduates to stay here.

MR PETTERSSON: Thank you.

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Supplementary data in relation to Health and Community Wellbeing Committee Hearing for the Inquiry into Recovery Plan for Nursing and Midwifery Workers:

In the meeting Mr Peterson expressed his interest about medicalised birth, here is a link for a further reading.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1871519206000680>

University of Canberra, Midwifery Course

Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Intake: number of students enrolled in first year (FT and PT) before census	41	40	38	33	39
Attrition: number of students withdrawn from the course	Unknown as some students become inactive, request intermission rather than withdrawing and after a period of time are discontinued				
Full time students (number of full time and part time students)	33 registered as PT across the degree				
Graduation: number of Graduated (students may have taken 5 years to get to third year)		22	34	33	25
Funded study (HECS)	CSP	CSP	CSP	CSP	CSP
Number of students moved out of ACT (interstate/overseas)		No data kept but majority stay in CBR	No data kept but majority stay in CBR	No data kept but majority stay in CBR	No data kept but majority stay in CBR
Number of active Master students, full time (part time) who will/have graduated	1FT (will complete 2024) 4PT (3 will complete 2024)	2FT completed 1PT completed	1PT completed		
Is there any exit survey	No	No			

Students formal feedback (presented by students' representative) in Course Advisory Group meeting in 2023 regarding financial concerns is attached here.

- “ Money
 - This course has a high financial cost due to the amount of unpaid hours and the hours lost from outside employment. Due to the unpredictable nature of being on call and the requirement of the clinical placement makes it near impossible to work and support yourself. This is also compounded by the transport costs of driving to and from clinical placement appointments and university and the cost of childcare to attend clinical placement.
 - The accessibility of this degree program is not equitable due to the considerable financial burden it imposes, and the substantial time commitment required. If the university wants to increase diversity in graduates, they need to look at providing further financial support/ scholarships.
 - A suggestion by the students is for the university to provide the uniforms or give a uniform allowance for the students as clinical placement is not paid.
 - The AIM roles need to be extended to first years to help give financial stability as these roles have an implicit understanding if you have to leave to go to a birth unlike other jobs which may result in you getting fired”