



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Recovery Plan for Nursing and Midwifery Workers

Submission Number: 11

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Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing,

Re: submission to the Inquiry into e-petition 19-22 'Recovery Plan for nursing and midwifery workers'

I am a Registered Midwife who has worked in the public maternity system for over ten years. I seek to address the Terms of Reference for this inquiry to provide an account of my experience as a midwife working within a public health system that is in desperate need of a 'recovery plan'.

I started writing this submission referencing papers and reports discussing workforce projections from a decade agoⁱ, parliamentary briefing papersⁱⁱ, reviews of maternity servicesⁱⁱⁱ, not to mention the endless media reports and media releases regarding workforce shortages^{iv}. After quite some time sitting in front of my computer, feeling frustrated with my own inadequacies to articulate, I have decided that what I really want to share with the Committee is the tender, distressing, exhausted, traumatic personal experiences of myself and my colleagues and friends who are midwives on the 'front line' providing care to women and their families in the ACT. I believe strongly that the parliamentary inquiry process is one which allows the voices of real people to be heard.

Midwives and nurses are burnt out and we have little time or energy anymore to keep asking for help, nor do we have the answers. The poor response to the call for submissions from us is not because we do not have something to say, it is because we don't have the energy to say it. We are drained; we are angry; we are disheartened; we are traumatised; we are leaving. If you want to hear from the midwives and nurses of the ACT, please come to us. Hold a forum; invite us to speak with the Committee secretariat. Please speak to us face-to-face and we will share our experiences.

[REDACTED]

Regards,

Hana Sayers

[REDACTED]

ⁱ <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/03/nurses-australia-s-future-health-workforce-reports-detailed-report.pdf>

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https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/Briefing_Book44p/CaringWorkforce

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/maternity-focus>

^{iv} <https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/maternity-focus>

[Hospital staff shortage: Burnt-out midwives are leaving as some feel birth conditions 'unsafe' \(theage.com.au\) Research reveals burnout in midwives, News, La Trobe University](https://www.theage.com.au/news/2021/03/21/hospital-staff-shortage-burnt-out-midwives-are-leaving-as-some-feel-birth-conditions-unsafe-research-reveals-burnout-in-midwives)