

**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**

Minister for Health

Minister for Families and Community Services

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear ~~Mr Duncan~~ **Tom**

Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2022 regarding Petition No 19-22 - Recovery Plan for Nursing and Midwifery Workers which was lodged by Mr Johnathan Davis MLA.

The ACT Government notes the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing has resolved to inquire and report on Petition No 19-22 - Recovery Plan for Nursing and Midwifery Workers. The ACT Government looks forward to contributing to this Inquiry, which will provide the opportunity to respond substantively to the important issues raised in the Petition.

The ACT Government acknowledges the stress and workload that nursing and midwifery workers have experienced, alongside all of their health workforce colleagues. Internationally these issues are replicated as the nursing and midwifery workforce and the broader community continues to manage from the ongoing impacts of the global pandemic and recover from significant waves of illness. The ACT Government looks forward to continuing partnerships with key stakeholders throughout the Inquiry and to working with nurses and midwives to make their workplaces great places to work.

The Chief Minister, myself and the Minister for Mental Health signed a joint open letter on 3 August 2022 to outline our commitment to the health workforce in the ACT. We are and will continue to deliver more support for our health workers with more staff, more opportunities, new facilities and a safer workplace.

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The ACT Government has a range of activities underway to address nursing and midwifery worker recovery. These activities include health workforce planning, the continued implementation of safety programs alongside Mandated Minimum Nurse/Midwife-to-Patient Ratios, a focus on wellbeing and recovery and programs of work to embed a positive workplace culture.

On behalf of the ACT Government, I extend my thanks to the petitioners for bringing this matter to the Assembly's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Stephen-Smith', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
9 November 2022