

POLICY STATEMENT ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY



Commonwealth Nurses
and Midwives Federation

Endorsed: 24th CNMF Biennial Meeting of Members

Date: 5 March 2020

The Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation (CNMF) recognises that in some countries of the Commonwealth a midwife must first obtain a nursing qualification before obtaining a midwifery qualification while in other countries of the Commonwealth a midwifery qualification is a direct entry program and a nursing qualification is not a pre-requisite. The Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation seeks to embrace all nurses and midwives across all countries of the Commonwealth in a spirit of respect, inclusivity, and collegiality regardless of the qualification pathway.

The CNMF strongly supports the right of each country to self-determine their education program and career structure for nurses and midwives without external interference or pressure. Countries should take regional and international trends into consideration when making decisions affecting nursing and midwifery education and career pathways and adhere to any mandatory frameworks and standards set by regional or international bodies.

The CNMF considers that, regardless of mode of obtaining a nursing or midwifery qualification, education programs which recognise prior learning should be in place in each country to facilitate nurses obtaining a midwifery qualification and midwives obtaining a nursing qualification should they so desire. Any recognition of prior learning should follow established minimum standards on the type and quantity of prior learning that can be recognised. While there are clear transferrable skills between nursing and midwifery, there must be adequate theoretical and clinical time spent in any second qualification to enable the graduate to provide safe and effective care.

The CNMF encourages the development and maintenance of close professional links between nursing and midwifery and considers there are significant advantages in sharing information and experience across the areas of education, legislation, regulation, policy and practice.
