

## **Report from the scoping party for the National Development of diabetes education framework 2007**

### **Background**

Roche sponsored a meeting to discuss diabetes education for health professionals in July 2005. This group of diabetes nurse specialist and dietitians discussed topics such as professionalism, education of health professionals and other providers, the accessibility of courses and standards of courses. These participants wanted to achieve an understanding of what was available and to develop a framework that would guide standards, the accreditation process and enable the group to reach a consensus and direction for the national education framework process. The group agreed on a vision statement

**“Quality Diabetes Education that is accessible to all”**

At the inaugural meeting a small working party was created whose **Terms of reference were:-**

- To scope up the establishment of the National Development of Diabetes Education Framework (NDDEF) for nurses
- Consult with the DNS executive and inform the membership
- To seek and establish ongoing funding for the establishment of NDDEF
- To determine the relevant body to communicate with
- To co-opt others if required assistance

Outside the terms of reference

- Other disciplines
- This group will flag but not undertake core competencies, rewrite the accreditation process and professional development pathway

The working party has met since its formation and in 2006 it was one of the topics discussed at the Forum day on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Palmerston North, along with MidCentral's diabetes nurse competencies and the progress of the accreditation of diabetes nurse specialists review. After the Forum Day, the working party have met once to discuss progress at the end of 2006.

At this meeting the topics discussed were

- Principles of education framework are to link in with competencies and accreditation.
- Accreditation process for diabetes nurses was being reviewed and this work was presented by Andrea Rooderkerk for the Accreditation Board.
  - The changes involved cessation of the exam which was seen as a barrier. With out the exam, accreditation process would be more often than once a year
  - The workload of the accreditation board was increasing, therefore there was a need to train other assessors with the role of the accreditation board being redefined
  - This is now not the only process which enables diabetes nurses to demonstrate competencies as DHB's and primary care have their own process.

- There was a need to address the criticisms of the process incorporating recognition of previous experience
- It is outside the remit of the accreditation board to decide salary
- The titles of diabetes nurse, diabetes nurse educator and diabetes nurse specialist are not protected
- There may be a need to have only one level of diabetes \*\*\*\*\* that is accredited, the title of this is yet to be decided and it may be that it becomes a credentialed diabetes \*\*\*\*\* that one is able to call oneself after the person has been through the accreditation process similar to the Australia's credentialed diabetes educators.
- Competencies developed by Helen Snell and a group of senior nurses in MidCentral were being used for a group of primary care nurses, the aim being to achieve proficient level of diabetes nurse. The progress of this work so far was presented by Helen Snell at this meeting. The Ministry of Health has sponsored Helen to present this work in a 'Roadshow'.

At the meeting, it was decided to wait for the 2 other work streams to progress before any further work from scoping party of the national diabetes education framework was undertaken. Such as:

- The work of the accreditation review was completed and process in place
  - Appointment and training of new assessors
  - Pilot of process complete
  - Feedback from members about the process
  - New process to allow those who were due for renewal of accreditation to proceed
- The competencies from MidCentral from Helen Snell's group to be discussed nationally at the Ministry of Health 'Roadshow'. The local experience was commenced and the plan was to evaluate it and report on it.

An update of both of these topics is going to be presented at conference in Christchurch in September by Kate Smallman, new chair of Accreditation Board and Helen Snell.

### **Conclusions**

It is obvious that the education working party has not made much progress because it has waited for the accreditation review and competencies work to be developed and progressed. When there is agreement about level of practice and competency required for diabetes nurses, then the identification of training requirements can begin. Until such time, it is business as usual for most courses and services that provide training.

The working party thanks the DNSS for their support for providing funding for this group to meet.

**Roberta Milne**

**Chair person of the working party for NDDEF**