

Sent by email on 6 September 2011

I am a RN and Clinical educator at the Aboriginal Health Council in SA. I teach Cert 3 and Cert 4 in ATSI Primary Health care. When I was working as an RN on the wards I heard that Aged care Cert 3 workers were going to be required to be registered soon. If this is the case I feel that the Cert 3 level ATSI workers should also be registered along with Cert 4. We don't train AHW's in cert 4 unless they are working , where the Cert 3 level they don't have to be working to get this training so usually there is a gap between the employment stage and finishing training. I hope registration will give more of an incentive to get into the workforce otherwise they won't be able to meet registration requirements.

As there is no current scope of practice for the SA AHW's I have found that there is a very large difference in the job roles all over the state for the AHW's no matter what level they are working at. I feel if they were registered this would also give the AHW's a more understanding of that role is and the importance to keep their credentials up, also the scope is so important as I am seeing AHW's only doing transport and admin when they are supposed to be the AHW's in the clinical setting, this is a major concern for me.

I am looking forward to the registration process and hopefully this will be able to give me some stronger guidelines to use within the workplace to assist in the support for the AHW's. The RN or EN are working with the AHW's will have no excuse but to let them do what they are trained to do, the EN and RN's won't be able to use the excuse I often hear that it's my registration under fire so why would I let someone do my job. It doesn't matter how much I try to talk to the nurses in regards to their role along side with the AHW's, I get the same response.

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