



MCaFHNA - Looking to the Future

The Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Australia Inc. (MCaFHNA) is the peak professional body for nurses and educators working in the field of maternal, child and family health. The association aims to promote the clinical specialty and provide a united voice for maternal child and family health nursing.

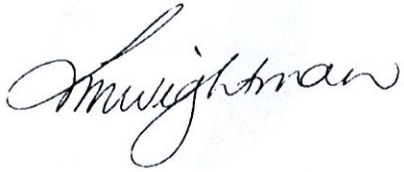
Presently there are multiple entities providing membership services and representation in the field of maternal, child and family health throughout Australia. These include State and Territory based associations who are members of MCaFHNA. The MCaFHNA Committee comprises two volunteer representatives from each State and Territory member group. Currently, individuals who are members of jurisdiction-based associations are associate member of MCaFHNA, not direct members of the national association. A restructure of MCaFHNA into a single entity association would allow regional committees to manage local events and support members.

The MCaFHNA Committee has agreed to embark on a process to consider a restructure of all the separately incorporated organisations into a single-entity national professional association. The first step included gaining advice in relation to current best practice in governance. Current thinking is that a single entity organisation provides optimum benefit for members without duplication of effort and resources. The potential advantages in changing the current structure of MCaFHNA include direct membership for individuals, better services to members, increased operational effectiveness and greater economies of scale, a single voice in advocacy and reduced workload on volunteers. The committee has agreed to move forward with the exploration of a constitutional change and consult with MCaFHNA member associations.

MCaFHNA invited the Associations Forum, a business specialising in providing advice to the associations sector, to prepare a discussion paper on the possible restructure from a federation to a single-entity body. *You can download a copy of the paper by [clicking here](#).*

The MCaFHNA Committee has expressed their wish to proceed with the restructured process and now wishes to engage directly with members for their input and support. MCaFHNA welcomes feedback regarding the process to date and encourages all comments and / or queries to be forwarded to your local jurisdiction-based associations who will inform your representatives on the MCaFHNA committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Wightman".

Louise Wightman

President, Maternal, Child and Family Health Nurses Australia (MCAFHNA)