

73RD SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY – RESUMED

Australia's written statement on Agenda item 12

Australia would like to acknowledge the enormous effort and sacrifices made by health and care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The dedication and selflessness by health and care workers on the front line has been critical to protecting, supporting and caring for millions of people across the globe.

Australia appreciates the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on the Relevance and Effectiveness of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel and thanks the Secretariat of the EAG for their continued support throughout the drafting.

Australia reaffirms its commitment to the centrality of the Code to the universal health coverage and health security agenda.

Australia recognises the Code as the universal ethical framework linking the international recruitment of health workers and the strengthening of health systems.

Australia supports the draft decision on the Code and is a strong advocate for the ethical recruitment of health workforce, echoing UN Sustainable Development Goal 3.C: Good Health and Wellbeing. Ethical principles and practices for the international recruitment of health personnel and the strengthening of health systems through the Code will be a fundamental component.

Australia supports the proposal to designate 2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers, recognising the significant and enduring contributions health and care workers make to humanity and the particular challenges and efforts during the pandemic.

Although activities have been constrained due to COVID-19 restrictions, Australia has celebrated the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife through virtual media activities.

Australia will continue to celebrate the contributions made by nurses and midwives, alongside all health and care workers in 2021.