



Australian College of Midwives Position Statement on Bed-sharing and Co-sleeping

**Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA)
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Questions for consideration

How do you feel about the opening statements?

Informed decision-making is paramount. It is vital to have accessible, non-biased information readily available to consumers and all clinicians involved in informed and shared decision-making.

We agree generally with risk minimisation approach, as it fits well with contemporary primary health care methods.

How do you feel about the Definitions?

Both definitions are easily understood.

How do you feel about the Key Take Home Messages?

Agree with all.

How do you feel about the key principles?

Agree or accept all principles, with the following notes.

- 3. Agreed, this is well demonstrated.
- 8. Agreed, however, need to support open education of the known risks.
- 9. Absolutely support this principle.

What changes would you suggest to the key principles?

6. and 7. No issue with this, however, an informed decision considering personal and cultural circumstances should be taken into account.

12. States: reliant on the ability of midwives to engage parents.
Suggest this line reads 'reliant on the ability of midwives and clinicians involved in maternal child health to engage parents.'

How do you feel about the recommendations for achieving best practice?

Absolutely support a collaborative and united approach. In regard to the recommendation to 'Undertake research into co-sleeping and bed-sharing practices'; APNA would support this.



What changes would you suggest to the recommendations for achieving best practice?

Regarding the points – ‘Ensure that midwifery practice is underpinned by national evidence-based safe infant sleeping recommendations’ and ‘Provide educational opportunities to ensure that midwives maintain their clinical skills and knowledge of evidence-based parenting advice’ – we agree but would like the principles actively marketed to all clinicians involved in maternal child health in addition to midwives, and to encourage all clinicians to maintain skills and knowledge.

How do you feel about the resources to guide midwives in their practice?

This is a very good resource listing. The literature review offers excellent reading and considering the lack of research in Australia, is well composed.

What changes would you suggest to the resources to guide midwives in their practice?

None.

How do you feel about the Glossary? What changes would you suggest to the Glossary?

Good, nothing further to suggest.

Any other comments?

The position statement reads well, contains simple statements of principle and practice recommendations with good resources and glossary.

APNA generally agree with the approach taken and would be happy to endorse with our suggestion to be inclusive of all maternal and child health providers be taken into consideration, as this would broaden the impact and deliverability of consistent national informed decision-making around these issues.



About APNA

The vision of the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) is for a healthy Australia through best practice primary health care nursing.

APNA is the peak professional body for nurses working in primary health care including general practice. With more than 4000 members, APNA provides primary health care nurses with a voice, access to quality continuing professional development, educational resources, support and networking opportunities.

APNA continually strives to increase awareness of the role of the primary health care nurse, and to be a dynamic and vibrant organisation for its members.

Primary health care nursing is wide ranging and covers many specialist areas including general practice, Aboriginal health, aged care, occupational health and safety, telephone triage, palliative care, sexual health, drug and alcohol issues, women's health, men's health, infection control, chronic disease management, cardiovascular care, immunisation, cancer, asthma, COPD, mental health, maternal and child health, health promotion, care plans, population health, diabetes, wound management and much more.

APNA aims to:

1. Support the professional interests of primary health care nurses
2. Promote recognition of primary health care nursing as a specialised area
3. Provide professional development for primary health care nurses
4. Represent and advocate for the profession
5. Collaborate with other stakeholders to advance our mission
6. Ensure a sustainable and growing professional association, by and for primary health care nurses.