

## **Observations to the Department of Health regarding the draft Irish National Dementia Strategy**

**Submitted on behalf of the NMBI**

**Date 25/02/14**

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) is the statutory body which provides for the registration, control and education of nurses and midwives and for other matters relating to the professions and the practice of nursing and midwifery. It is charged by the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011 with an overall responsibility for the interest of the public in the conduct of its affairs. NMBI appreciates the opportunity to comment on the National Dementia Strategy (Draft) developed by the Minister for Health and the Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People. The regulator submitted previous comments to the consultation process on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

The regulator supports the development of a strategy to promote the 3 aims identified related to awareness, reduction of stigma and the provision of services and supports particularly in the community. While it is acknowledged that the strategy is high level the NMBI believes it is important that nurses as the main healthcare practitioners have much to contribute to the effective achievement of the strategy.

Nurses have a great deal to offer the person and the family where dementia is an issue in the translation of the integrated care pathways across the care continuum. The role of the nurse is developing within the services at many levels including at speciality and advanced levels and as such these nurses will be pivotal in acting as change agents and champions for persons in the area of dementia care.

The role of the unregulated care worker in providing care across the continuum of care settings is an issue that requires consideration and a strategy to ensure safe competent and compassionate care. Nurses have the skills to delegate and supervise that care provision across the continuum.

NMBI recognise the future challenges to healthcare delivery based on the figures reported. The revision of education standards and guidance to nurses has taken cognisance of the new requirements of service delivery as outlined in the various current health strategy documents.

NMBI particularly support the achievement of the underpinning philosophy of the strategy.

**Ends**

