Dear Victorian Nurses and Midwives,

We are delighted to write to advise you that the Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Bill 2015 has passed through the Victorian Parliament.

As you would be aware, this was a key commitment of this Government and we are pleased that it has been delivered within 12 months of the election.

This is landmark patient safety legislation for Australia. Nurse and midwife to patient ratios will now be protected by law and are no longer at risk through the enterprise bargaining process.

Prior to the new legislation taking effect, some amendments need to be made to the current enterprise agreement. The amendments ensure the legislation and enterprise agreement will work in a complementary way. The amendments are supported by both hospitals representatives and unions.

In the coming days, you will receive a ballot from the Victorian Electoral Commission asking you whether or not you support these amendments. We encourage you to vote yes and support the amendments.

Further information about the detail of these amendments can be found by contacting your employer or your union. Alternatively you can contact the Department of Health and Human Services via ratios@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to the nursing and midwifery profession and to the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

Yours sincerely

[Signatures]

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier

The Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

p.s. Enclosed is some important information about the Nursing and Midwifery Health Program - please make sure you look after your own health and wellbeing.