



NEW SOUTH WALES NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION
AUSTRALIAN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY FEDERATION NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH



POSITION STATEMENT ON FAIR AND ETHICAL TRADE

Re-Endorsed by Annual Conference 2018

NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association
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Position Statement on Fair and Ethical Trade

THE NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION RECOGNISES THAT:

The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association recognises that international trade is vital to Australia's long term economic interests and can be a tool for economic growth, improved social conditions, environmental protection and adherence to human rights conventions and democratic values.

However, it is a matter of concern that the benefits of trade liberalisation are not shared equitably. Sustainable development requires that governments retain the capacity to regulate labour, product and capital markets in ways most appropriate for their particular economic circumstances. Various forms of public intervention and regulation have an important role to play in establishing fair and ethical trade arrangements¹.

THE NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION ADOPTS THE POSITION THAT:

- International trading arrangements must respect fair wages, safe working conditions, support collective labour rights and sustainable environmental practices.
- Trade agreements should contain commitments to monitor, enforce and improve core labour rights.
- Any changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) that reduce access to affordable medicines or extension of patent rights or that delay availability of generic drugs are not acceptable.
- Trade agreements must be subject to democratic oversight and meaningful public consultation.
- Trade agreements should not include Investor State Dispute Settlement clauses as such clauses undermine our democratic right to legislate in the interests of health, education and the environment to the benefit of private corporations.

NOTE

1. Growth and social justice via fair trade policy, ACTU Congress 2012.