

24 May 2010

Communication from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia regarding the assignment of the accreditation function for nursing and midwifery

On 22 April the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) announced that it had assigned the accreditation function for the nursing and midwifery professions to a restructured Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The assignment of the accreditation function to an independent authority aligns arrangements for nursing and midwifery with other professions in the national registration and accreditation scheme.

Both the Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency will be meeting regularly with the ANMC to oversee the governance and organisational restructure in order for the ANMC to become the accrediting body for nursing and midwifery on the 1 July 2010.

As a result of this restructure, there will be a redistribution of some of the functions of the previous ANMC as these were aligned with the registration functions of the state and territory nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities. This will allow for a clear delineation of the accreditation function of the restructured ANMC.

The timeframe to achieve the required changes is short and all parties are working hard to ensure a smooth transition of function. At its meeting on the 25th February, the Board considered a list of all the programs that are currently approved by State and Territory nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities and noted that under the transition provisions of the National Law, these programs will all be listed as approved programs after 1 July. This decision means that all current students in a currently approved program of study will meet the qualification requirements of the National Law when they graduate.

For education providers wishing to submit a course of study for approval which is outside these transition provisions, they are advised to contact the restructured ANMC after the 1 July 2010.

The Board will be publishing regular updates regarding this issue on its website.
<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/index.php>