

Fact sheet

November 2016

Registration as a nurse or a midwife

Background

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) undertakes functions as set by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The NMBA regulates the practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. The NMBA does this by developing standards, codes and guidelines for nurses and midwives in which they are required to practice.

In order to become registered, nurses and midwives must meet the NMBA's mandatory [registration standards](#).

Separate national registers for nurses and midwives

Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), there is a national register for nurses, and a separate national register for midwives. On the register of nurses there are two divisions – registered nurses and enrolled nurses.

Endorsements for nurses and midwives

The endorsement of registration identifies registered nurses and midwives with additional qualifications and specific expertise who meet the requirements of the relevant registration standard

Nurse practitioner endorsement

An [endorsement as a nurse practitioner](#) identifies registered nurses who have completed an NMBA-approved program of study or program that is substantially equivalent leading to endorsement as a nurse practitioner and the equivalent of three years' (5,000 hours) full-time experience in the advanced clinical nursing practice level, within the past six years

Registered nurse - supply scheduled medicines (rural and isolated practice) endorsement

A [scheduled medicines endorsement](#) identifies registered nurses qualified to obtain, supply and administer schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines for nursing practice in a rural and isolated area.

Midwife - prescribe scheduled medicines endorsement

A [scheduled medicines endorsement](#) identifies midwives qualified to prescribe schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines and to provide associated services required for midwifery practice, in accordance with relevant state and territory legislation.

Note: There is no registration standard against which individuals can seek endorsement as a midwife practitioner. Refer to the NMBA's [Position statement on midwife practitioners](#).

Notations for nurses and midwives

A notation records a limitation on the practice of a nurse/midwife. It is used to describe and explain the scope of a nurse/midwife's practice by noting the limitations on that practice. The notation does not change the nurse/midwife's scope of practice but may reflect the requirements of a registration standard.

- [Nurses with a sole qualification in mental health nursing, paediatric nursing or disability nursing](#) notation
- [Eligible midwife](#) notation
- [Nurse practitioner](#) category notation – this applies to endorsed nurse practitioners who prescribe medicines in Victoria.
- [Enrolled nurse notation](#) – this applies to enrolled nurses who do not hold an NMBA-approved qualification in medication administration

Do I need to tell AHPRA about postgraduate studies I have completed?

You only need to let AHPRA know if you have completed postgraduate studies that lead to an endorsement on your registration or the removal of a notation on your registration. If you have completed postgraduate studies that do not lead to either of these then you do not need to tell AHPRA.

Does my principal place of practice have to be published on the national register?

The National Law requires that the suburb and postcode of your principal place of practice (PPP) is published on the national register. The PPP is defined as the address from which you predominantly practice the profession, or if not practising, or not practising predominantly from one address, then your home address. If you are practising through an agency, your principal place of practice can be the address of the agency.

A [form](#) is available if you believe that publishing information about you on the public register would pose a significant risk to your health or safety as a nurse or midwife. The NMBA will consider each application individually.

For more information

The following pages on the NMBA website contain useful information for nurses and midwives and employers:

- [Registration standards](#)
- [Registration and endorsements](#)
- [Professional codes and guidelines](#)
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)

Document control

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