

IQNM: Migration FAQ for internationally qualified nurses and midwives

25 September 2014

Important general information about the new assessment model for the qualifications of *Internationally qualified nurses and midwives* is published on the [National Board website](#).

See also:

- [IQNM: General FAQ for internationally qualified nurses and midwives](#)

These frequently asked questions (FAQ) answer some common questions relating to migration.

Migration

1. I am registered as a nurse or a midwife in New Zealand - does the new model affect me?

No, the process has not changed for you. Applicants who have the legal authority to practise as a nurse or midwife in New Zealand are subject to certain entitlements under the [Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997](#) (*Cth*) and should apply for registration with the National Board using the following form:

- [Application for Trans-Tasman mutual recognition as a registered nurse, enrolled nurse or midwife - ATMR-40](#) (519 KB,PDF)

This form is also available under [Forms](#) on the National Board website.

2. I have been accepted for skilled migration as a registered nurse, a midwife or an enrolled nurse in Australia. Will my application for registration with the National Board be successful?

Acceptance for skilled migration by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) does not guarantee that you will be registered with the National Board. Read: [Important information about migration on our website](#).

3. I am ready to quit my current job and migrate to Australia. How long will it take to process my application for registration?

We advise that you do not make any irreversible decisions – such as resigning from current employment or moving to Australia – while waiting for a decision on your application for registration with the National Board. Read: [Important information about migration](#) on our website.

The timeframe to process your application depends on the unique circumstances of your application.

Your application may have significant processing delays if:

- your application form is incomplete, or
- you have not included with your application all supporting documents that we need as evidence of your qualifications

Read: [Processing time for your application](#) on our website.

4. What reciprocal agreements exist between Australia and other countries?

There are no reciprocal agreements between Australian and nursing and/or midwifery regulatory authorities of any countries other than New Zealand. Reciprocal access to healthcare services is an

independent and separate agreement and does not cover recognition of IQNMs for registration in Australia.

5. Why is there a difference between ANMAC and AHPRA's assessments?

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) is an independent organisation that assesses the skills of overseas nurses and midwives who want to migrate to Australia under a general skilled migration program – see [International Services on the ANMAC website](#).

The National Board, in partnership with AHPRA, assesses eligibility for registration as a registered nurse, enrolled nurse or midwife in Australia in accordance with the National Law.

Acceptance for skilled migration by ANMAC does not guarantee that you will be registered with the National Board. See also: [Important information about migration](#)

6. What will happen to those nurses and midwives who ANMAC approved for skilled migration before 10 February 2014?

The National Board will register those nurses and midwives currently seeking registration with the National Board who were approved for skilled migration by ANMAC **before** 10 February 2014 if they satisfy the following criteria:

- meet all registration criteria under the current model for registration, save for criterion 4 (that their qualification is at AQF level 7 or above)
- hold a qualification at AQF level 6 and no subsequent qualifications that will allow for registration
- received ANMAC approval for skilled migration before 10 February 2014
- applied for registration with the National Board by 29 August 2014, and
- hold a valid ANMAC letter of determination, or an Australian visa obtained on the basis of the ANMAC approval, at the time of application.

These applicants may have made irreversible decisions, such as migrating to Australia, in good faith, based on the outcome of ANMAC's skills assessment, and have registered their intent to practise as nurses or midwives by applying for registration with the National Board.

The National Board will register these applicants without requiring them to complete a [Board-approved bridging program of study](#). This solution is lawful, practical and in line with professional standards.

On behalf of the National Board, AHPRA is working to speed up application processing for this group of nurses and midwives.

In order to be considered for registration under this solution, you will need to supply a copy of your *Letter of determination* from ANMAC.

7. What will happen to those nurses and midwives approved by ANMAC before 10 February 2014 whose qualifications are at AQF level 5?

The National Board is still determining the best approach for those nurses and midwives approved by ANMAC before 10 February 2014 whose qualification is at AQF level 5 or below. AHPRA will contact these applicants with a further update as soon as this is available.

8. What will happen to those nurses and midwives who ANMAC approved for skilled migration after 10 February 2014?

Applicants approved by ANMAC after 10 February 2014 had access to information about the National Board's new assessment model, as published on the National Board website. Applicants in this category will be assessed under existing requirements of the new model.

9. I migrated to Australia on a spousal or working holiday visa – what will happen to my application for registration as a nurse or a midwife?

We will assess your application for registration under existing requirements of the new model.

10. How are nurses with sole qualifications in mental health, paediatric or disability nursing assessed under the new model if their qualification is at AQF level 6?

The National Board has determined that nurses with sole qualifications at AQF level 6 will be registered with a condition for supervised practice if they satisfy the following criteria:

- meet all registration criteria under the current model for registration, except criterion 4 (that their qualification is at AQF level 7 or above)
- hold a Diploma, Advanced Diploma or Diploma of Higher Education at AQF level 6, and
- the qualification is focused solely on mental health, paediatric or disability nursing.

Find out more information about [nurses with a sole qualification](#) from the National Board website.

On behalf of the National Board, AHPRA is working to speed up application processing for this group of nurses and midwives.

11. Why are applicants with AQF level 6 qualifications in paediatric, disability and mental health nursing being treated differently to AQF level 6 general nurses?

The National Board has decided that registration with conditions for supervised practice is a more appropriate pathway to registration for these applicants than completing a Board-approved bridging program. These nurses will be registered with a notation. Notations are used to provide relevant information to employers and the public on an individual's registration status.

In Australia all other nurses are considered general nurses. For example, they may have in-depth work experience in a particular area of nursing, such as intensive care, but there is no distinction in their registration.

12. Why can't general nurses with AQF level 6 qualifications be registered with a condition for supervised practice instead of being required to complete a bridging program?

Bridging programs have been designed for general nurses with qualifications at AQF level 6 who meet all other registration requirements. The National Board has decided that this is the most appropriate pathway for general nurses to meet the qualification requirements for registration.

13. Where do I get more information?

- Information about the new model and a checklist for applicants: published on the National Board website under Registration and endorsement > [Internationally qualified nurses and midwives](#).
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For more information on the requirements for IQNMs: visit the [Internationally qualified nurses and midwives page](#) of the National Board website.
- [Application form for IQNMs](#)
- [Accreditation](#)
- [Approved programs of study](#)
- [Australian Qualifications Framework](#)