

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 25 September 2014 at the Parmelia Hilton, Perth

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the National Board or NMBA) is the national regulator for nursing and midwifery in Australia. It is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([the National Law](#)).

The National Board meets monthly and considers a range of matters, the most important of which are published in this Communiqué.

In order to facilitate engagement with local stakeholders across states and territories, the National Board now holds its monthly meeting in a different state and territory every two to three months.

This helps the National Board to gain a better understanding of the jurisdictional matters relating to the regulation of enrolled nurses, registered nurses, midwives and students.

It also supports information sharing on the National Board's strategic priorities, projects and regulatory functions with local representatives from the professional and industrial organisations, education providers and employers, health department and members of the local state or territory board of the NMBA.

[Review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals](#)

The independent review of the National Scheme is underway and the NMBA joined with the other National Boards and AHPRA in providing a submission to the consultation paper.

The terms of reference for the review and the consultation paper are published at [Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council website](#) under 'media releases' on the right-hand tab. The review – led by independent reviewer, Mr Kim Snowball – was built into the intergovernmental agreement that set up the framework and governance arrangements for the National Scheme. The agreement stated that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) would initiate an independent review after three years of the National Scheme's operation.

[Stakeholder Forum WA](#)

The National Board held a stakeholder forum on 24 September 2014 in Perth. Participants included nursing and midwifery professional associations and education providers.

The purpose of the forum was to enable:

- the National Board to outline its strategic directions and work of National committees for policy, accreditation, finance and governance, and
- local stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the National Board's role and work in regulating nurses, midwives and students.

In addition to a question and answer session, topics covered included:

- National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme)

- Functions of the National Board
- Functions of AHPRA
- NMBA strategic plan 2013-2015
- State and territory boards of the NMBA, and
- National Committees of the National Board i.e. Finance and Governance Committee, Policy Committee and the Accreditation Committee.

As well as National Board members presenting, WA AHPRA representatives were in attendance to address operational matters arising.

Participant feedback was overall good and confirmed that the forum provided networking opportunities, with good participation and interaction.

Thought post review/Board performance review

As a part of effective governance the NMBA undertakes a review of its performance in relation to the regulation of nurses and midwives in Australia. The NMBA values the opportunity to reflect on its performance and has recently completed this review and have identified opportunities for further improvement for the next 12 months.

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

1.1 ANMAC Approved Programs of Study for September 2014

The Committee approved:

- a. full accreditation of nursing programs for five years:

Education Provider	Program	Campus
Charles Darwin University	Bachelor of Nursing	Casuarina and Alice Springs, NT
University of Sydney	Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry); Bachelor of Arts/Master of Nursing; Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing; Bachelor of Health Science/Master of Nursing	Camperdown, NSW
University of Sydney, Sydney Nursing School	Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies)	Camperdown, NSW
University of Queensland	Master of Nursing Studies (Graduate Entry)	Brisbane, QLD

- b. moving an approved nursing programs of study from the NMBA Approved Programs of Study list into 'inactive':

Education Provider	Program	Details
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Charles Darwin University	Bachelor of Nursing	ANMAC has accredited a Bachelor of Nursing to be offered by Charles Darwin University. On approval of this program by the NMBA the currently accredited and approved program is to be moved to the Inactive List.
University of Sydney, Sydney Nursing School	Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry); Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing; Bachelor of Health Sciences/Master of Nursing; Bachelor of Arts/Master of Nursing	ANMAC has accredited the following programs to be offered at the Sydney Nursing School, The University of Sydney: Master of Nursing (Graduate Entry); Bachelor of Arts/Master of Nursing; Bachelor of Science/Master of Nursing; Bachelor of Health Science/Master Of Nursing. On approval of these programs by the NMBA the currently accredited and approved programs are to be moved to the Inactive List.
University of Sydney, Sydney Nursing School	Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies)	ANMAC has accredited the Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) to be offered at the Sydney Nursing School, The University of Sydney. On approval of this program by the NMBA the currently accredited and approved program is to be moved to the Inactive List.
University of Queensland	Master of Nursing Studies (Graduate Entry)	ANMAC has accredited the Master of Nursing Studies (Graduate Entry) to be offered at the University of Queensland. On approval of this program by the NMBA the currently accredited and approved program is to be moved to the Inactive List.
University of Western Australia	Master of Nursing (Entry to Practice)	The University of Western Australia has advised ANMAC that the Master of Nursing Science (Entry to Practice) program will not be offered.

Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
31 October 2014

For more information

- Keep up to date with regular news and updates on the National Board website www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact Us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200