EIGHTH MEETING OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

27 May 2010

The eighth meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia was held on the 27 May 2010 at the Hilton Hotel Airport, Melbourne, Victoria. This communiqué is aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board.

The Board continues to work very closely with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to address the issues and concerns of stakeholders as we progress to commencement of the new national scheme on 1 July 2010.

Transition Arrangements

AHPRA Registration Helpline
The call centre established to support registrants in the transition to the new national scheme will remain in place until the 1 July. Extra resources have been added to this service to assist in meeting registrants' needs. After this date there will be a contact centre in each state and territory that will accommodate for telephone and face to face queries from registrants.

Registrants are advised to check for relevant information on the Board's website in the first instance as this being updated in a regular basis. The Contact Centre number is 1300 088 590 for those questions not address by the information on the Board's website.

State and Territory Boards of NMBA
As of the 1 July 2010 the State and Territory Boards will continue to operate under the National Law as committees of the National Board (s.36). The Board has decided to maintain State and Territory Boards at their current size for the first year of the national registration scheme and then to transition to Boards within each State and Territory each comprising eight members.

The National Board has delegated a number of functions to the State and Territory Boards. Documentation of these delegations is being developed and will be provided as soon as it is available.

Appointment of the Accreditation Authority for Nursing and Midwifery

The Board is continuing to work very closely with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council in the transition of the accreditation function to a restructured ANMC.

The Board has published a communiqué regarding this matter which is published on its website under the Latest News section.

Registration Standards Eligible Midwives and Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines

The Board has considered the response to the consultation on the Registration Standard for Eligible Midwives and Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines. These documents will be forwarded shortly to Ministerial Council for approval.

WP/SEAR

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council will handover the secretariat of Western Pacific and South East Asian Region (WP/SEAR) to NMBA at an appropriate time.

The purpose of WP/SEAR is to provide a forum for the development of productive relationships and networking between regulatory authorities in the western pacific and south-east Asian region. Whilst some countries have well established regulatory frameworks in place, others are in the process of developing regulatory models, and there is much help which can be provided to assist those countries.

Meetings of member countries have been held biannually in different locations since 1996, the next meeting is planned for later this year.

Conclusion

The Board would like to reiterate the message from its previous communiqués wherein it acknowledges that the transition to the national scheme involves potential risk and a significant amount of work. Individual nurses and midwives are encouraged to keep themselves informed of their obligations as registrants under the national scheme and information pertinent to them by checking the Board's website at regular intervals and by encouraging their colleagues to do the same.

Finally, the Board encourages individuals who are currently registered and who need to renew by 1July 2010 to renew their registration early, preferably by 31 May 2010. This will assist the reduction of potential error in transferring information to the new registration database.