

THIRD MEETING OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA 19 NOVEMBER 2009

The third meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia was held on 19 November 2009 at the Hilton Melbourne Airport. The Board is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

The Board noted progress with implementation of the new national scheme. With respect to the legislative program the Board is pleased that:

- the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* ('Bill B') has been passed without amendment by the Queensland Parliament and is due to commence on 1 July 2010 (this also covers adoption of the National Law for Queensland)
- in NSW the National Law has passed both houses of Parliament without amendment
- in Victoria the National Law has also passed both houses of Parliament without amendment, and
- the Bill has also been introduced in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

The Board discussed progress with the consultation on the Board's proposals for registration standards and proposals for endorsements that were posted on the Agency's website (www.ahpra.gov.au) on 27 October 2009. The Board noted trends in responses to the paper received so far and the response received from the Governance Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

At its December meeting, the Board will consider revised draft registration standards, following due consideration of all the submissions received, and finalise the standards and proposals in order to submit them to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval.

The Board also considered the feedback received to date on the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council's (ANMC) accreditation standards and agreed that these would need some recrafting to meet the requirements of the National Law. Further work will be done on these when all the submissions have been considered.

The Board considered what other codes and guidelines might be needed for the profession on commencement of the national scheme. The Board will work with other boards on the development of guidelines covering mandatory reporting obligations under the National Law, and advertising of practitioner services. The Board also intends to consult on the adoption of the ANMC professional practice

framework and other codes and guidelines, as required under the National Law, and it will consider this issue more fully at its December meeting. The Board plans to release its proposed draft codes and guidelines for public consultation on 5 March 2010.

The Board considered the Commonwealth's proposed amendments to its *Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Bill 2009*. The amendments clarify the Commonwealth's intent that only nurse practitioners and midwives who work in collaborative arrangements with medical practitioners will be covered under the legislation for access to Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits. The Board has been invited to work with the Commonwealth on the regulations under this scheme and noted that it is very appropriate for the Board to take the lead in the development of qualifications and experience for the nursing and midwifery professions as this fits with the role of the Board under the National Law.

As in previous meetings, in its third meeting the Board focused on the matters it had to resolve to enable the scheme to commence on 1 July 2010. The Board tentatively approved a budget for 2009-10 so that the Agency can commence employing staff and leasing premises for the new State and Territory and national offices. The Board noted that recruitment to senior positions in the national Agency is progressing and remains on track.

The Board also considered its budget for 2010-11 and will give further consideration to this at future meetings, following the outcome of the registration migration process that will confirm final registrant numbers, and due diligence processes that will confirm reserves that will be transferred from existing State and Territory boards. The Board expressed its concerns at the potential impact of the delays in SALT returns from some jurisdictions.

The Board considered progress with the establishment of the Registration and Notification Management Information System, to support the Board's functions and provided feedback to the Agency.

The Board considered a number of other administrative and financial matters, including possible fees for those who undertake work as members of committees or panels of the Board. It also considered the optimum size for its State and Territory boards and agreed to recommend to Ministers that there be eight members appointed onto boards.

The Board acknowledged the continuing efforts of existing State and Territory boards in preparing for implementation of the national scheme, as well as accrediting bodies, AHPRA and the National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project team. The Board looks forward to continued joint effort in coming months.

Anne Copeland
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

30 November 2009