



TENTH MEETING OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

29 JULY 2010

The tenth meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia was held on the 29 July 2010 at the Hilton Hotel Airport, Melbourne, Victoria. This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions and actions of the Board arising from this meeting.

This meeting was the first of the Nursing and Midwifery Board following the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme on the 1 July 2010. The Board is aware of some of the difficulties faced by applications for registration in this transition period. The Board is working very hard with the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency to meet the needs of these applicants whilst ensuring that the protection of the public is not compromised in this transition.

All state and territory offices of AHPRA are now open in participating jurisdictions. These offices are the point of contact for all your registration questions. Contact details for these offices are available on the AHPRA website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>.

Transition Arrangements

Western Australia

Western Australia is not yet a participating jurisdiction in the national registration and accreditation scheme. Registrants in Western Australia are asked to monitor the website of the Nurses and Midwives Board of Western Australia (NMBWA) and the NMBA for updates on the anticipated transition date.

Please note that any nurse or midwife wishing to practice in Western Australia, before this State enters the national scheme, must be registered with the NMBWA. Courses approved for registration and endorsement in WA will not be considered approved under the national scheme until such time as the WA enters the national scheme.

Information and Communication

The Board acknowledges that there have been challenges faced by many stakeholders in the transition to the national scheme. AHPRA are providing extra resources to meet the needs of those contacting AHPRA with queries.

Both the Board's website and that of AHPRA are being updated on a continual basis with more information and application forms.

Registration Renewals

Any nurse or midwife who was due to renew their registration by the 30 June 2010 was required to renew their registration by 31 July 2010.

If this applies to you and you did not meet this deadline then you will not be registered and should not practice. You are advised to contact AHPRA urgently to discuss the matter.



Registration Data

Registrants registered prior to 1 July 2010 were sent a letter in April and May to check the registration details of each individual. A number of people returned forms with requests for changes to the principle place of practice on the public register. These changes will take some time to appear on the public register. In the interim the State of the principle place of practice will be listed and the suburb included at a later date.

If you believe publishing certain information about you on the public register would pose a serious risk to your health or safety as a practitioner then you are advised to complete the form available under the registration section of the AHPRA website.

Letters will be forwarded by the applicable state or territory office of AHPRA to registrants who have unresolved issues regarding registration types and conditions. You should contact AHPRA with any ongoing queries regarding this matter.

Provision for nurses to hold registration as an enrolled nurse and registered nurse at the same time

The Board is calling for submissions from interested parties in regards this matter. For further details please review the News & Updates – Current Consultation section of the Board's website.

English Language Skills registration standard

The Board and AHPRA have met with key stakeholders over recent weeks to clarify issues relating to the English Language Skills registration standard. The Board has also published a set of FAQs relating to this issue on its website. This work will continue to ensure all education providers and students understand the requirements of this standard.

The English Language Skills registration standard applies to all those applying for registration as a nurse or midwife for the first time. It does not apply to students entering into a nursing or midwifery program of study. However, all students graduating from an approved program of study and then applying for registration as a nurse or midwife in Australia **must** meet the requirements of this standard. The evidence that you are required to provide is outlined in the standard and the associated FAQs.

The Board is aware that in the initial transition period that some international students have not understood these requirements. This has meant some international students may not be able to sit the English language proficiency tests to meet the evidence requirements of the registration standard before their student visa expires. The Board and AHPRA have been liaising with representatives of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) regarding this. Affected students are advised to contact DIAC for information on their visa options to provide them with extra time to allow them to meet the formalities of registration for those students able to meet the required standard.



Registration standard for Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements

In response to stakeholder queries the Board discussed the information contained in the registration standard for Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements. The Board will seek further input from industry experts to ensure this standard assists nurses and midwives in meeting the requirements of the National Law.

Further information will be published on the Board's website as this work progresses.

Conclusion

In coming months the Board will continue to review and develop standards, codes and guidelines across a range of issues relating to the registration and practice of nurses and midwives across Australia.

As per previous communiqués, 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.