



ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

27 August 2010

The eleventh meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia was held on the 27 August 2010 at the Aitken Hill Conference Centre, Melbourne, Victoria. This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions and actions of the Board arising from this meeting.

All state and territory offices of AHPRA are now open in participating jurisdictions. These offices are the point of contact for all your registration enquiries. 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 practise in Western Australia (WA), 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 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 continue to provide extra resources to meet the needs of those contacting AHPRA with queries. There is a new phone number available on the AHPRA website for use by international callers wanting to contact AHPRA.

Both the Board's website and that of AHPRA are being updated frequently with information and application forms. This includes information on fees and renewal processes. Applicants and registrants are advised to review this website on a regular basis.

English Language Skills registration standard

Since implementation, it has become evident that the registration standard for English language skills requires amendment to ensure a clear message is provided about the required standard of English language proficiency for registration as a nurse or midwife in Australia. The Board therefore intends to review its English language registration standard to ensure clarity and that all education providers and students understand the requirements of the standard. A consultation document will be available shortly.



Framework for the assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives for registration

The Board has developed a *Framework for the assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives for registration*, based on previous work by the ANMC Inc. This Framework provides criteria for the assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives for registration as a registered nurse, enrolled nurse or midwife by the NMBA. This document is available on the Board's website under the *Internationally Qualified Nurses and Midwives* section.

Social Networking Information Sheet

Acknowledging social media as an expanding area of on-line communication, the Board has developed an information sheet for nurses and midwives. The information is intended to raise awareness of the implications of on line behaviour and its potential impact on professional registration. This document is available on the Board's website under the *FAQs and Fact Sheet* section.

Title Protection

All registrants and employers of nurse and midwives need to be aware of the requirements under the National Law regarding the use of protected titles. Only those who have met the requirements of the National Law are authorised to use a protected title. The Board has developed an explanatory statement and FAQs to provide guidance to registrants and employers. This document is available on the Board's website under the *FAQs and Fact Sheet* section.

National Boards Meeting

A National Boards meeting day was held on Saturday 28 August 2010. Attendees included, members of all National Boards, Agency Management Committee and AHPRA Senior executive (including State Manager and National Board Executive Officers)

The day provided an opportunity to review progress and identify key lessons learnt; develop a shared purpose and agreed ways of working together and to refine organisational priorities to appropriately reflect Boards and AHPRA's direction.

Conclusion

As stated in previous communiqués, 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 in Australia.

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.