



## **TWELFTH MEETING OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA**

**23 September 2010**

The twelfth meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) was held on the 23 September 2010 at the Hilton Hotel, Melbourne Airport, Victoria. This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions and actions of the Board arising from this meeting.

### **Transition Arrangements**

#### **Western Australia**

Western Australia will soon be joining the National Scheme. Registrants in Western Australia (WA) are asked to monitor the website of the Nurses and Midwives Board of Western Australia (NMBWA) and NMBA for updates on the anticipated transition date.

Please note that any nurse or midwife wishing to practise in 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.

#### **The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency**

The twelfth meeting of NMBA focused on a number of implementation matters. The Board is working very closely with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to ensure smooth implementation of its standards, codes and guidelines. AHPRA manages all registrations, notifications and financial aspects on behalf of the Board. The transition of all these functions to AHPRA from previous state and territory Boards is a significant undertaking. The Board understands that residual transition issues are being addressed with the aim of a timely resolution.

The state and territory offices of AHPRA 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/>.

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

### **State and Territory Boards of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia**

NMBA has established Boards and Committees in each state and territory to ensure that decisions on notifications and registration matters can be made in a timely and effective manner in each jurisdiction.



## English Language Skills registration standard

As indicated in its previous communiqué, the Board has committed to review its English language skills registration standard. Please monitor the Board's website under the News & Updates - Current Consultations for more detail. A consultation document will be released shortly.

## Education requirements for eligible midwives

NMBA previously approved Guidelines which outline the educational requirements for courses suitable for attaining the qualifications required for a registered midwife to be recognised as an 'eligible midwife' and endorsed as an eligible midwife under the National law.

In order to avoid confusion, the Board agreed to endorse these guidelines as the accreditation standards for prescribing programs.

The Guidelines will be retitled: *Guidelines for Education Requirements for Recognition as Eligible Midwives and Accreditation Standards for programs of study leading to endorsement for scheduled medicines for Eligible Midwives.*

## 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.