

Position statement

Updated March 2015

Midwife practitioners

Introduction

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme ([the National Scheme](#)) for health practitioners in Australia commenced on 1 July 2010 under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act ([the National Law](#)) as in force in each state and territory.

Under the National Law, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (National Board/ NMBA) is responsible for the regulation of the nursing and midwifery professions, and is supported in this role by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The National Board has approved registration standards, codes and guidelines and competency standards that define the National Board expectations whilst guiding the professional practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

NMBA position on midwife practitioner

The NMBA wishes to advise people seeking endorsement as a midwife practitioner that it does not have a registration standard against which individuals can seek endorsement as a midwife practitioner.

Before the start of the National Scheme in 2010, some jurisdictions had a midwife practitioner endorsement. As part of the transition arrangements to the new scheme, all midwife practitioners who were already endorsed by their local registration board on 1 July 2010 were, and are still, able to continue their endorsement, providing they meet the NMBA's ongoing requirements for annual renewal of registration and endorsement.

The continuing professional development (CPD) and recency of practice requirements for currently endorsed midwife practitioners are identical to those required for nurse practitioners, as applied to their midwifery context.

Key midwifery professional organisations strongly support a new eligible midwife category and for this group to have access to professional indemnity insurance, the Medicare benefits schedule and the pharmaceutical benefits scheme.

The NMBA has worked closely with Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to develop a set of standards for notation and endorsement of eligible midwives, within the NMBA's *Safety and quality framework*. Midwives seeking notation and endorsement should refer to the relevant [registration standards](#) and [endorsements](#) on the NMBA's website at www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au. To access government funded professional indemnity insurance, Medicare benefits schedule or pharmaceutical benefits scheme, the midwife would need to be notated and subsequently endorsed by the NMBA as an eligible midwife.

You can find out more on [endorsements and notations](#) on the NMBA website.