

## Media release

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4 May 2011

### Two thirds of Australia's nurses and midwives due to renew registration

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia today urged those nurses and midwives who have yet to renew their registration, which is due 31 May 2011, to renew online and on time.

To date, more than 70,000 nurses and midwives due to renew by 31 May 2011 have already done so, showing many of the more than 200,000 due are renewing in good time and online.

Nurses and midwives can check their registration expiry date on the National Registers of Nurses and Midwives, published online at [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au). The best way to search the Registers is by name and profession.

Board Chair Anne Copeland acknowledged those nurses and midwives who have promptly renewed their registration and encouraged the remaining nurses and midwives whose registration expires on 31 May 2011 to renew on time and online.

"In the National Scheme, individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Nursing and Midwifery Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible," Ms Copeland said.

Nurses and midwives due to renew their registration by 31 May 2011 number 85,083 in Victoria, 58,649 in New South Wales, 29,289 in South Australia, 20,431 in Western Australia, 4669 in Queensland, 3260 in Northern Territory, 1385 in Tasmania and 457 in ACT.

Ms Copeland said AHPRA was implementing an intensive communication campaign to support the renewal process. This will include sending several reminder emails and letters to individual nurses and midwives.

She encouraged nurses and midwives to provide AHPRA with their email address to allow for easy and efficient direct communication.

Nurses and midwives whose registrations expire on 31 May 2011 will renew for 12 months and their registration will be valid until 31 May 2012. From 2012, the renewal date for all nurses and midwives in Australia will be aligned and registration renewal will be due by 31 May each year.

Ms Copeland reminded the professions that there were significant consequences for individual nurses or midwives who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, nurses and midwives who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Registers of Nurses and Midwives.

Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise their profession in Australia until a new application for registration is approved.

“Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear: renew on time and online,” Ms Copeland said.

## Background

There are some simple steps nurses and midwives can follow for easy and straightforward renewal of registration:

1. **Check your contact details** – make sure your contact details, including email and mobile telephone, are correct and current. This will allow AHPRA to send you renewal reminders and to contact you easily
2. **Check your registration expiry date** – practitioners can view their expiry date on the National Registers of Nurses and Midwives, accessible at [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au) and enter their last name and profession to search
3. **Watch for the notice to renew registration** – a notice to renew registration, including the unique contact number (user ID) supporting online renewal, will be mailed to each practitioner about eight weeks before registration expires
4. **Use online services** for quick and easy renewal of registration – most practitioners can renew registration online using the unique contact number (user ID) provided on the registration renewal notice sent by AHPRA. Online renewal of registration usually takes between two and 48 hours, depending on the method of payment chosen by the practitioner and whether the application contains any adverse declarations.

Nurses and midwives who do not have their unique contact number can get it by submitting an online enquiry form – selecting “User ID” as the category of enquiry or calling 1300 419 495. Nurses and midwives can also mail their renewal application to AHPRA, GPO Box 9958 in their capital city.

Nurses and midwives can check that their application has been received at the Board’s website at [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au). Nurses and midwives whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed. The listing on the National Registers of Nurses and Midwives is evidence for employers that a practitioner is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed.

Nurses and midwives who forget to renew their registration by 31 May 2011, or within the one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. They are not able to practise in their profession until their registration application has been granted.

## Renew online – Register on time

### *For more information*

- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200