

## Media release

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12 May 2011

### Nursing and Midwifery Board congratulates professions on job well done

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia today paid tribute to the commitment, hard work and diligence of Australia's 330,000 registered nurses and midwives.

The Board recognises that May is an important month for nurses and midwives through the two dates that are commemorated worldwide – International Midwives Day on 5 May and International Nurses Day on 12 May.

Board Chair Anne Copeland said these commemorations were a perfect opportunity to reflect on the contribution of nurses and midwives to the health care of the Australian community.

"This contribution cannot be underestimated and I am proud to lead the call in acknowledging the work of all nurses and midwives, each of whom takes their work and the care of their patients extremely seriously," Ms Copeland said.

She said Australians could be proud of the work Australia's nurses and midwives do at home and while working abroad, particularly when responding to pleas for help from international neighbours, some of whom have been affected by natural disasters in 2011.

In 2011 the theme for International Nurses' Day is 'Closing the gap: Increasing equity and access'.

In Australia, the Board plays a key role in the nursing and midwifery professions by regulating the professions in the public interest as part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

"Our job description is very simple: protect the public by making sure only qualified practitioners who can provide safe care are registered to practise," Ms Copeland said.

More than 260,000 nurses and midwives across Australia are due to renew their registration between now and 30 June.

"I urge Australia's nurses and midwives to check when their national registration is due and renew online at [AHPRA - Forms](#) and on time to ensure they stay registered and can keep working to provide safe and professional care to the Australian community," Ms Copeland said.

#### *For more information*

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