

Media Release

23 May 2011

Australia signs agreement with five nations to better protect the public

Closer relationship between international regulatory bodies will better protect the public

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board) has joined seven international nursing and midwifery regulatory organisations in signing a memorandum of understanding.

The agreement between the international organisations outlines the signatories' commitment to work closer, develop standards for the regulation of nurses and midwives and facilitate the free exchange of professional knowledge.

Signed by the Chairperson and Chief Executive of each signatory organisation on 5 May 2011 in Malta, the ratifying of the agreement coincided with the recent International Council of Nurses conference titled *Nurses driving access, quality and health*.

Board Chair Ms Anne Copeland said the agreement was a great move to improve international collaboration and showed that regulation could be progressive and forward-thinking in its role of protecting the public.

"The recent introduction of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) provided a new national regulatory framework in Australia creating the opportunity to share our experiences and expertise with other international regulatory organisations", said Ms Copeland.

"The signing of this agreement means a closer relationship between our nations in developing standards for nursing and midwifery and an opportunity to share expertise. And that equals a public that is better protected."

The agreement is between:

- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
- Nursing Council of New Zealand
- An Bord Altranais (Ireland)
- Nursing and Midwifery Council – United Kingdom
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing (United States)
- Singapore Nursing Board
- College of Nurses of Ontario
- College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia

About the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia is responsible for registering, developing standards for and handling notifications of nurses, midwives and students. It does this through the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) which regulates health professionals under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (National Law) as in force in each State and Territory. The Board is supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). For more information about the Board, please go to www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au.

For more information

- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.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