

## Media release

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27 June 2011

### Last chance to renew for nurses and midwives due to renew by 31 May

Australia's nurses and midwives who were due to renew registration by 31 May and have not done so have only days left to apply or their registration will lapse.

More than 203,000 of the 210,855 nurses and midwives throughout Australia who were due to renew their registration by 31 May 2011 have applied to renew on time.

Under the National Law, health practitioners in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme have one month after their registration expiry to renew – or their registration will lapse.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Chair Anne Copeland said the Board was very pleased that 96 percent of nurses and midwives whose registration was due on 31 May had applied on time.

"This is a fantastic result and in line with previous Boards experience which shows that 5 – 10 percent of practitioners do not renew on time each year," Ms Copeland said.

"We just want to make sure that every nurse and midwife in Australia whose registration was due on 31 May – who wants to keep practising – has applied to renew by 30 June.

"We are leaving no stone unturned in our effort to make sure that only practitioners who are opting out of registration do not apply to renew by 30 June," she said.

Under the National Law, the registration of practitioners who do not renew within one month of their expiry date must lapse.

"Neither AHPRA nor the National Board have any discretion about this so our advice is clear: renew online and on time," Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Chief Executive Officer Martin Fletcher said.

"AHPRA has implemented an intensive communication campaign to support the renewal process, which included sending several reminder emails and letters to individual nurses and midwives and an awareness campaign through employers and professional associations," Mr Fletcher said.

Under the National Law, a practitioner whose application to renew registration has been received by AHPRA can continue to practise while AHPRA assesses their application. Practitioners can check that their application to renew has been received through the AHPRA website at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

Health practitioners who do not renew registration by their expiry date, or within the following 30-day late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. However, they may not practise in the profession until a new registration is granted.

*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