

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

15 December 2011 in the AHPRA office Melbourne, Victoria

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board or NMBA) is the national nursing and midwifery regulator in Australia. It is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory. The Board meets monthly and discusses a range of issues, the most important of which are published in this Communiqué.

The Board met for the last time for the 2011 year and reflected upon the achievements and progress that has been made to effectively regulate nurses, midwives and students of nursing and midwifery across Australia under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. While not without its challenges at times, the Board has continued to work in accordance with an agreed action plan while maintaining flexibility to address important issues that may arise in a timely and effective manner.

Planned activities during 2011 included the approval by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council of three revised Registration Standards:

1. [Nursing and Midwifery Endorsement nurse practitioners Registration Standard](#) and [Guidelines on Endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner](#) – 4 April 2011
2. [Nursing and Midwifery English Language Skills Registration Standard effective 19 Sept 2011](#) and [Fact Sheet and FAQ for English Language Skills](#) - 19 September 2011
3. [Nursing and Midwifery Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements Registration Standard](#) and [Guidelines for Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements for Midwives](#) – 10 January 2012

The Board also developed and/or approved a number of position statements to provide guidance to the midwifery and nursing professions, including:

- [Nursing & Midwifery Board Position Statement - Scope of practice of nurse practitioners - 27 October 2011](#)
- [Nursing & Midwifery Position Statement on midwives in private practice](#) – 2 September 2011
- [Position statement on midwife practitioners 7 April 2011](#)
- [Position statement on concurrent registration as an enrolled nurse and registered nurse](#) - 28 April 2011
- The Australian College of Midwives position statement [Homebirth Position Statement June 2011](#)

and the

- [Nursing and Midwifery National Prescribing Formulary for Midwives](#)

The Board acknowledged the outstanding contribution of stakeholders in providing constructive feedback to the numerous Board consultations required to develop new, and improve existing registration standards as well as a range of professional guidelines and positions statements.

The Board also undertook a significant review of the NMBA Delegations to state and territory Boards of NMBA as well as state and territory Registration, Notifications and Immediate Action Committees and AHPRA staff to ensure timely and appropriate decision making relating to the registration and the notifications of health, performance and/or conduct of individual registrants. This included a review of the Terms of Reference including membership of the state and territory Boards and Committees of NMBA.

The Board focused its attention on establishing its role and relationship with the independent accrediting authority for nursing and midwifery, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). The Board met twice with ANMAC during 2011 to address the myriad of issues related to the establishment of a new and nationally consistent accreditation scheme which is applying relatively new national accreditation standards. The Board's role in approving ANMAC accredited programs of study leading to registration as a nurse or midwife or endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner or Eligible Midwife was also determined.

The end of a second demanding year for the Board will be followed by the third and final year of a three year term of office for the twelve member National Board established by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 August 2009.

The Board hopes everyone has had the opportunity to experience an enjoyable and relaxing time with friends and family over the Christmas and New Year and are now re-energised to commence a new year full of new opportunities and challenges.

NMBA Strategic Plan

The Board has approved a strategic plan that prioritises the significant work program of the Board relating to its core regulatory functions of registration, accreditation, finance and governance as well as policy – this includes the development of new, and revision of, existing registration standards as well as professional codes, standards, guidelines and positions statements to guide nurses' and midwives' practice.

The actions identified from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA or the Board) Strategic Plan for 2011-2012 are to be taken as being in collaboration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

AHPRA Vision: A competent and flexible health workforce that meets the current and future needs of the Australian community

NMBA Vision: To be viewed by Australian and international nursing and midwifery professions, the public, and other key stakeholders as a capable and visionary Board that regulates nurses and midwives with integrity in the interest of public safety.

AHPRA Mission: To regulate health practitioners in Australia in the public interest.

NMBA Mission: To work in partnership with health professions, the education sector and the community by exhibiting a willingness and common desire to make the regulation of nurses and midwives nationally successful so that the public is safe.

The Key strategic themes are:

1. Working together
2. Proactive leadership
3. Effective Corporate activities
4. Managing the political environment
5. Application of the National Law

The NMBA Strategic Plan is currently being finalised for posting on the NMBA website [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Home](#)

NMBA Calls for Tender

To continue to progress the NMBA's comprehensive work plan, the Board approved the process of tendering for two major projects:

1. Review of the NMBA National Competency Standards for Nurse Practitioner – [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - News](#)
2. Review of the NMBA National Competency Standards for Enrolled Nurses (August 2002) – [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - News](#)

The aim of the tender process is for the Board to select a suitably qualified and experienced external provider to undertake the rigorous research, analysis and stakeholder consultation required to develop evidence based and contemporary competency standards that inform the scope of practice of both the Enrolled Nurse and the Nurse Practitioner in Australia.

The Board's Policy Committee will oversight the management of these important projects to ensure the outcomes are achieved in the required timeframe.

Registration Standards

[Registration Standards](#) developed by the Board and approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) are published on the Board's website under the 'Registration Standards' tab. The registration standards outline the Board's expectations of nurses and midwives, and must be met.

Professional Indemnity Insurance arrangements registration standard

The Board received approval from the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) on the 16 December 2011 for the revised *Professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard for nurses and midwives*.

The revised *Professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard for nurses and midwives* and supporting *Guidelines: Professional indemnity insurance arrangements for midwives* to help guide midwives on the new standard and how it applies were distributed to stakeholders and published on the NMBA [website](#) on 10 January 2012.

Please note, there is currently no published *Guidelines: Professional indemnity insurance arrangements for nurses* as they are currently in development.

International Confederation of Midwives Global Standards for Midwifery Education

The Board commended the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) on its work in developing the *Global Standards for Midwifery Regulation* (2011); the ICM *Global Standards for Midwifery Education* (2010) and ICM *Global Standards for Midwifery Education* (2010) *Companion Guidelines*.

Approval of accredited programs of study

The Board approved the following programs for five years:

1. **University of Technology Sydney** (Ultimo campus)
 - a. Bachelor of Midwifery
 - b. Graduate Diploma in Midwifery
2. **Murdoch University** Bachelor of Nursing (Mandurah campus)
3. **Monash University**
 - a. Bachelor of Nursing Program (Clayton, Gippsland, Peninsula and Berwick campus)
 - b. Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Emergency of Nursing (Paramedic) (Peninsula campus)
 - c. Bachelor of Nursing (Community Health) (Berwick campus)
4. **University of Technology Sydney** Master of Nursing Studies (Nurse Practitioner Major)
5. **University of Queensland** Master of Nurse Practitioner Studies (Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and Herston campus)
6. **Monash University** Graduate Diploma of Midwifery (Gippsland and Clayton campus)
7. **Charles Darwin University** Bachelor of Midwifery

The Board approved the following programs with conditions for five years:

1. **Health Train Education Services** Diploma of Nursing
 - Condition of accreditation: Health Train Education Services are required to enrol no more than nineteen (19) students into a HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing program accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council [ANMAC] to be approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
 - Any increase in student enrolment numbers (above 19) will only be considered by ANMAC when Health Train Education Services provide ANMAC with clear evidence the organisation has secured adequate and sufficient acute care professional practice placements.
2. **Skills Training Australia** Diploma of Nursing
 - Condition of accreditation: That prior to enrolling students into their program, Skills Training Australia supply the [ANMAC] Committee with evidence that they have been accredited by the Victorian Registration and Quality Authority and have [an] extension to their scope to conduct the Diploma of Nursing.

The Board is currently undertaking a project to improve the information and functionality of the NMBA Approved Programs of Study lists by updating and including additional relevant information for each approved program. This includes identification of those programs of study with conditions that were previously approved by a state or territory nursing and midwifery board and transitioned into the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in accordance with the National Law. When completed, this information will be posted on the NMBA approved nursing and midwifery programs of study lists at [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Accreditation](#)

Approval of accredited programs of study continued....

The Board approved the removal of the following five programs from the NMBA approved programs of study list:

South West Healthcare Initial Registration Course for Division 1 Overseas Registered Nurses

Western District Health Services Re-entry Course for Recognition as a Division 1 Registered Nurse

Western District Health Services Re-entry Course for Recognition as a Division 2 Registered Nurse

Western Australia Department of Health – Nursing & Midwifery Office Perth Module 1 of (University) EN Registration Pathway Program

Stawell Regional Health (Stawell) Initial Registration Course for Division 1 Overseas Registered Nurses

Website and receiving important information by email

Further information about the Board can be found at: www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au. Nurses and midwives are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on Standards, Codes and Guidelines affecting their professions.

Practitioners are also encouraged to provide their email address to AHPRA (by updating their contact details online). This will enable the Board to send e-newsletters and other important information for the profession, and AHPRA to contact practitioners about important registration or renewal information.

For more information

- Follow the Board on Twitter! Join us via www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au and keep up to date with regular Board news and updates.
- 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)