

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

22 March 2012 in the AHPRA office Darwin, Northern Territory

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

The Board approved a process for the evaluation of the performance of all National, State and Territory Board members for implementation in 2013. The Board considered this an important strategy in ensuring sound governance and continuous improvement of the performance of the National Board as well as the state and territory Boards of NMBA.

Preparation for the 2012 Renewal of Registration

Check your contact details – make sure your contact details supplied to AHPRA, including email and mobile telephone, are correct and current. This will allow AHPRA to send you renewal reminders and to contact you easily. Click on *'Update Contact Details'* located under *Services for Practitioners* at the bottom left of the home pages of www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au

Check your registration details and expiry date – nurses and midwives should check their registration details are correct and note their registration expiry date on the National Registers of Nurses and Midwives, accessible at www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au or via www.ahpra.gov.au Enter your last name and profession to search.

Watch for the reminders to renew registration – a series of email and hard copy renewal reminders have been sent directly to nurses and midwives and include your unique user ID for online renewal.

Use online services for quick and easy renewal of registration – most practitioners can renew registration online using the unique user ID provided by AHPRA. Click on *Renew your registration online* located on the top right of the home pages of www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au and www.ahpra.gov.au and follow the prompts. Nurses and midwives who do not have their unique user ID can get it by submitting an online enquiry form – selecting 'user ID' as the category of enquiry or by phoning 1300 419 495. Practitioners can also mail their renewal application to AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, in their capital city.

Professional codes, guidelines and position statements

Developed and approved by the National Board following wide-ranging stakeholder consultation, professional codes, standards, guidelines and position statements are published on the Board's website under the [Codes, Guidelines and Statements](#) tab. These documents, in conjunction with the National Board's *Competency Standards*, comprise the National Board's *Professional Practice Framework* which outlines the National Board's expectations of safe, quality care by nurses and midwives and the standard of professional care they provide.

Re-entry to practice policy

The *Re-entry to practice policy for nursing and midwifery* was approved by the Board on 19 March 2012 and subsequently implemented effective from 29 March 2012 when it was published on the National Board's website [Codes, Guidelines and Statements](#)

This new policy is to be read in conjunction with the Board's Recency of Practice Registration Standard. The Re-entry to practice policy provides guidance for nurses and midwives seeking to re-enter the nursing or midwifery workforce following a lapse in practice of five (5) years or more. It also sets out the National Board's requirements for persons who previously held registration as a nurse in Australia with the sole qualification in mental health or paediatric nursing or disability nursing.

The policy enables applicants to be assessed for the appropriate pathway to re-enter the nursing or midwifery profession based on an assessment of the previously registered nurse's and/or midwife's:

- qualifications (includes both undergraduate and postgraduate nursing and/or midwifery studies);
- professional practice history; and
- length of time away from practising in the profession/s.

Depending on the outcome of the assessment, the pathway may be a period of supervised practice approved by the Board; a Board approved re-entry to practice program leading to registration or a Board approved entry to practice program of study leading to initial registration whereby the applicant will be required to apply directly to the education provider for recognition of prior learning (RPL) and identification of the requisite studies in an accredited re-entry to practice pathway.

The National Board is undertaking further work to facilitate the effective and nationally consistent implementation of the *Re-entry to Practice Policy for nursing and midwifery*.

Guidelines: Professional Indemnity Insurance arrangements for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners

The Board approved proposed *Guidelines: Professional Indemnity Insurance arrangements for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners* for consultation with the Board's internal stakeholders. Once the feedback is collated, reviewed and where appropriate, incorporated into the draft document for approval by the Board, the draft guidelines will be distributed widely to all stakeholders for consultation.

These guidelines will provide additional information to nurses and nurse practitioners in relation to the Board's [Professional Indemnity Insurance arrangements registration standard](#)

Accreditation

The Board approved the following program for five years:

- Southern Cross University, Bachelor of Nursing (Lismore, Coffs Harbour and Tweed Heads).

The Board approved the following additional campuses to be included in the existing Approved Programs of Study list – Major Changes:

- Challenger Institute of Technology, Diploma of Nursing (reduce campuses to only the Murdoch Campus and St John of God Hospital, Murdoch)
- Charles Darwin University, Bachelor of Nursing (additional campus: Bachelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education)

The Board has undertaken a significant quality improvement project to enhance the accuracy of information relating to the list of programs of study leading to registration and endorsement for nursing and midwifery that have been accredited by the [Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council](#) and approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

As there are hundreds of programs, the list has been separated into several categories to make it easier to search on the Board's website [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Approved Programs of Study](#)

Approved Programs of Study

Registered Nurse	Enrolled Nurse	Midwife
General registration (424 KB,PDF)	General registration (567 KB,PDF)	General registration (299 KB,PDF)
Post-registration: - Nurse Practitioner (405 KB,PDF) - Rural and Isolated Practice (341 KB,PDF)	Post-registration (419 KB,PDF)	Post-registration (253 KB,PDF)
Re-entry (439 KB,PDF)	Re-entry (325 KB,PDF)	Re-entry (385 KB,PDF)
Internationally qualified (572 KB,PDF)	Internationally qualified (302 KB,PDF)	Internationally qualified (357 KB,PDF)
Other (268 KB,PDF)	Other (257 KB,PDF)	Other (172 KB,PDF)

Website and receiving important information by email

Further information about the National 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 relating to their professions.

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