

Media release

11 May 2012

Nursing and Midwifery Board recognises special day for nurses

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the National Board) urges all communities to take a moment's pause tomorrow to reflect on the invaluable contribution of registered nurses, enrolled nurses and nurse practitioners.

Over 64,000 enrolled nurses, 275,000 registered nurses and 700 nurse practitioners* are registered to practice across Australia and are regulated by the National Board under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

May is an important month for the nursing profession with International Nurses Day being commemorated worldwide tomorrow – 12 May 2012. The theme for this year's International Nurses Day is *Closing the Gap: From Evidence to Action*.

National Board Chair Anne Copeland said the commemorative day was a perfect opportunity to reflect on the invaluable work of nurses and nurse practitioners, but also on how far the profession had come.

"Australia's nurses and nurse practitioners take nursing work extremely seriously, endeavouring to achieve the best possible health outcomes when caring for their patients," Ms Copeland said.

"As a result, the nursing profession's contribution to community wellbeing is not just evident in a practical sense.

"Their support of change and innovation to achieve better evidence-based health outcomes is in line with the work of the National Board in implementing evidence-based standards to guide professional nursing practice."

In the National Scheme, the National Board sets the regulatory policy framework for the nursing profession. This includes the development of registration standards for entry to the profession and professional practice codes, standards and guidelines to guide nurses and nurse practitioners in their professional practice.

"Nurses and nurse practitioners play an important part in the National Board's consultation process by providing feedback on reviews of standards and policy," Ms Copeland said.

"The use of an evidence-based approach enables nurses and nurse practitioners to challenge and be challenged on their approach to practice and to hold both themselves and the profession accountable. It allows nurses and nurse practitioners to constantly review their practice and to seek new and more effective and efficient ways of providing quality, safe and accessible nursing care to the Australian community."

More than 340,000 nurses and midwives are due to renew their registration with the National Board by 31 May 2012.

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.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

* Data as at 31 March 2012