

Media release

15 May 2012

Time running out for nurses and midwives to renew registration by 31 May

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board) today urged those nurses and midwives who have yet to renew their registration, which is due 31 May, to renew online and on time.

Board Chair Anne Copeland said the number of nursing and midwifery professionals renewing online was pleasing with numbers already surpassing online renewal figures for the same period in 2011.

“To date, 45% of the 330,000 nurses and midwives due to renew their registration by 31 May 2012 have already renewed online which is a fantastic result,” Ms Copeland said.

Nurses and midwives due to renew their registration by 31 May 2012 and who have identified their principal place of practice number 92,400 in New South Wales, 89,200 in Victoria, 63,000 in Queensland, 27,700 in Western Australia, 30,450 in South Australia, 8,260 in Tasmania, 4,600 in ACT and 3,350 in the Northern Territory.

“To ensure that everyone who wants to renew their registration does so, hard copy letters have been sent to nurses and midwives who have already received email reminders but are yet to renew online,” Ms Copeland said.

“In the National Scheme, health professionals are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible.”

Ms Copeland said once AHPRA received a nurse’s or midwife’s application for renewal of registration they would stop receiving renewal reminders. A new online facility to ‘opt out’ of renewing registration also puts a stop to renewal reminders.

“Nurses and midwives who do not want to renew their registration can simply ignore the reminders or go online to ‘opt out’ of renewing,” she said.

“This new online facility will provide the Board and AHPRA with better data on the number of nurses and midwives who have chosen to opt out, to distinguish them from individuals who intended to renew, but did not do so on time.

“I urge anyone due to renew by 31 May who has not yet done so to act quickly as applications received after the registration expiry date will incur a late payment fee.”

The late payment fee will apply to nurses and midwives who apply to renew during the one month late period outlined in the National Law. It will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

Ms Copeland reminded the professions that there were significant consequences for individual nurses and midwives who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, nurses and midwives who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Registers of Nurses and Midwives. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise their profession in Australia until a new application is approved.

“Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear – renew on time. The quickest and easiest way to do this is online,” Ms Copeland said.

Nurses and midwives can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Renewal Received Confirmation](#). Individuals whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

The listing on the National Registers of Nurses and Midwives is evidence for employers that a health professional is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed. Alternatively, nurses and midwives can print off a copy of their registration certificate using AHPRA’s online services at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Failure to renew:

Nurses and midwives who forget to renew their registration by 31 May 2012, or within the following one month late period ending 30 June 2012, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. These practitioners should note that they are not able to practise in their profession until their fast-track registration application has been processed and approved.

Renew online – Register on time

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