

## Communiqué

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### Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 18 October 2012 in the AHPRA National office, Melbourne Victoria

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

#### [Nurse Practitioner advance practice hours](#)

The National Board has set a minimum requirement of advanced practice hours for a Registered Nurse seeking endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner.

In order to meet the requirements of the endorsement registration standard, applicants must now provide evidence of a minimum of 5,000 hours of advanced practice in the past six years. These hours calculated are equivalent to three years full time practice, and take into account leave taken (i.e. annual leave, sick leave, compassionate leave, professional development leave).

Setting the minimum advanced practice hours in numbers rather than years clarifies the requirements of the endorsement standard and aligns with a nationally consistent approach to the assessment of applicants.

A Nurse Practitioner whose endorsement has lapsed because they did not meet the requirements for ongoing endorsement will be required to make a new application for endorsement, and must meet the requirements of the Endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner registration standard.

The National Board will soon publish on its website more details to guide applicants on providing evidence of advanced practice hours. Further information on endorsements and notations is available on the [National Board website](#).

#### [Competency Standards for the Nurse Practitioner for preliminary consultation](#)

The National Board released in October 2012 a review of the National Competency Standards for the Nurse Practitioner for a four-week preliminary consultation with targeted stakeholders.

This preliminary consultation is a 'road test' on proposed content, which is a normal process to help identify potential operational impacts, issues or concerns, ahead of the paper's review and release for public consultation later in December 2012 or early January 2013.

Southern Cross University and the University of Sydney are the two collaborating parties in the research project to review the current National Competency Standards for the Nurse Practitioner. The review will take into account relevant national and international literature, as well as the current scope of practice and role of nurse practitioners across Australia. It aims to ensure that the revised competency standards provide an accurate guide for contemporary Nurse Practitioner practice, and the education preparation nurse practitioners require.

#### [Accreditation review for public consultation](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (National Board) has started public consultation on the exercise of accreditation functions for nursing and midwifery accreditation arrangements.

This review is part of a joint accreditation review consultation by AHPRA and all National Boards for the first 10 health professions to enter the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in July 2010.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) is the current independent accrediting authority for nursing and midwifery under the National Scheme.

In this public consultation phase, the National Board seeks extensive feedback and encourages wider distribution across registered nurses and midwives, other health practitioners and members of the community.

The consultation paper and a report from the Australia Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council are available on the [National Board website](#).

Please provide feedback by email to [accreditationreview@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:accreditationreview@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business on **Friday 7 December 2012**.

#### Accredited programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

The National Board approved for five years the following programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration or endorsement:

- University of Notre Dame, Diploma of Nursing (Broome)
- New South Wales Health Registered Training Authority, Diploma of Nursing (Rozelle)
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Education Centre, Diploma of Nursing (Ridleyton)
- South West Institute of Technology, Diploma of Nursing (Bunbury)

The National Board approved major changes in the following programs:

- Careers Australia, Diploma of Nursing (Haymarket NSW, Fortitude Valley QLD and Adelaide SA).
- South West Institute of TAFE, Diploma of Nursing (Hamilton)

The National Board approved the following amendments to the Approved Program of Study List:

- University of Western Australia, Master of Nursing Science (Entry to Practice) – removal of the Bethanie campus
- Curtin University, Post Graduate Diploma in Midwifery- from 1 January 2013 program name change to Graduate Diploma in Midwifery
- Curtin University VTEC, Diploma of Nursing- provider name change to Goldfields Institute of Technology
- Monash University, Bachelor of Nursing – removal of the Clayton campus
- University of New England, Bachelor of Nursing, change of the expiry date to 1 January 2014.

The National Board approved following program prolongations:

- Institute of Health and Nursing Australia, Initial Registration Course for Division 1 Overseas Registered Nurses- VIC until 30 November 2012
- Institute of Health and Nursing Australia, Bridging Course for Overseas Registered Nurses –WA until 30 November 2012
- Institute of Health and Nursing Australia, Program for Overseas Qualified Nurses- ACT until 30 November 2012
- Cunningham Centre Rural and Isolated Practice, Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulation 1996 until 1 December 2013
- Celtic Training and Consultancy Pty Ltd, Diploma of Nursing until 30 October 2012
- Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE, Diploma of Nursing until 1 March 2013
- James Cook University, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) until 1 March 2013.
- West Coast Institute of Training, Diploma of Nursing until 31 December 2012
- Goldfields Institute of Technology, Diploma of Nursing until 31 December 2012

- Great Southern Institute of Technology, Diploma of Nursing until 30 October 2012

The National Board also approved the National course code change for TAFE New South Wales, Diploma of Nursing.

For more detailed information please go to the [approved program of study lists](#) of the National Board website.

#### Professional indemnity insurance (PII) for midwives research project - PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is undertaking a National Board funded research project on professional indemnity insurance (PII) for midwives. The objective of this study is to carry out a selective international review of professional indemnity insurance arrangements and claims, specifically in relation to midwifery practice and obstetric practice.

As part of the research, PwC is contacting key stakeholders to gain understanding of the:

- context in which privately practising midwives (PPMs) operate nationally – this includes key factors that impact upon PPM practice
- key drivers of outcomes relating to homebirth
- needs surrounding PII – gaps that exist and quantum of cover
- key drivers which impact upon PPMs being able to access PII.

This research project is anticipated to finish in February 2013.

#### Competency Standards for the Enrolled Nurse project - Monash University

The National Board has funded Monash University to undertake a review of the National Competency Standards for the Enrolled Nurse. The purpose of this project is to revise the existing NMBA (formerly ANMC) National Competency Standards for the Enrolled Nurse with respect to relevance and currency against the contemporary role and scope of practice of enrolled nurses across Australia.

These national competencies will be revised using the best available evidence that ensures a strong foundation for the education and assessment of enrolled nurses into the future.

Monash University is seeking input from enrolled nurses, registered nurses and midwives to participate in an online survey and a focus group. To access this survey, please visit the [National Board website](#).

#### National Board-approved Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards (2012)

At its meeting on 23 August 2012, the National Board approved the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council's (ANMAC) *Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards (2012)* for a period of five years.

These revised accreditation standards are available for education providers preparing to lodge applications with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council in 2013.

The standards apply to the accreditation of education programs leading to entry onto the national register as a Registered Nurse in Australia.

A copy of the Board-approved *Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards (2012)*, and a link to the ANMAC implementation plan located on its website, is available on the [National Board website](#).

#### Hosting the International Collaborative Nurse Regulator Forum and presence at ICN 25<sup>th</sup> Congress

The National Board is participating in the International Council of Nurses 25th Quadrennial Congress that is being held in Melbourne in May 2013. National Board members have submitted a number of abstracts (summary of papers) relating to nursing and midwifery regulation in Australia to the ICN Congress.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

Held every four years, the ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress (ICN 2013) is taking place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 18 - 23 May 2013.

Registrations have now opened for the Congress - visit the [ICN website](#) to learn more. You can go direct to the [registrations page](#) to register.

Coinciding with ICN 2013 is a one-day International Nurse Regulators Collaborative Forum (INRCF) that the National Board will host in Melbourne. The group includes representatives from nursing regulators in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, USA, Singapore and United Kingdom.

#### Strategic planning with state and territory boards of the National Board

The National Board is developing its strategic plan for the period 2013 – 2015. This strategic planning has been a continuous process across 2012, with the objective of a final plan for the National Board approval mid-December 2012.

A key feature of the strategic planning process was a collaborative workshop of the National Board, Chairs of state and territory boards of the NMBA, and AHPRA personnel on 19 October 2012. The objective of this facilitated workshop was to explore the National Board's strategy in detail.

The Strategic Plan will be placed on the National Board website when it is finalised.

#### Ms Anne Copeland

Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

5 November 2012

#### For more information

- Keep up to date with regular news and updates on the National Board website [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)
- Visit [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://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)