

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 13 December 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.

Finalised NMBA strategic plan

The National Board has finalised its strategic plan 2013-15 for the period of 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2015.

The NMBA strategic plan 2013-15 is aligned with the National Scheme's objectives and guiding principles including protecting the public, facilitating workforce flexibility and mobility, and provision of high quality and innovative education and training.

The National Board has identified 10 key strategic priorities. These include:

1. **Stakeholders** - Be a recognised leader in nursing and midwifery.
2. **Professional Practice Framework** - Ensure contemporary, relevant, well understood and used professional practice frameworks for nursing and midwifery.
3. **Registration** - Drive consistency in the application of National Board registration standards and decision making.
4. **Notifications** - Advance quality and consistency around standards, process and decision making on notifications.
5. **Accreditation** - Facilitate effective accreditation of nursing and midwifery programs of study.
6. **Workforce Agenda** – Engage effectively with bodies relevant to the nursing and midwifery workforce.
7. **National Board** - Provide excellent and recognised leadership in the regulation of nursing and midwifery.
8. **Finances** - Use financial resources efficiently and effectively.
9. **Health Profession Agreement** - Ensure a Health Profession Agreement (HPA) that meets the strategic requirements of the National Board.
10. **Resources and Governance** - Practise effective and contemporary governance.

These strategic priorities provide the framework within which strategic objectives are identified and the initiatives to meet these objectives are planned and implemented over the life of the strategic plan.

This strategic plan will undergo an annual review to assess and reflect changing needs and priorities, in alignment with the National Board's vision, mission and values as follows:

- *Vision*: A flexible nursing and midwifery workforce that meets the current and future needs of the Australian community through competent and safe practice
- *Mission*: Provide leadership to nurses, midwives and students through regulation in the public interest in accordance with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme ([National Scheme](#)) and in partnership with stakeholders, and
- *Values* underlying our actions: vision, accountability, consistency and collaboration.

This strategic plan will soon be posted on the NMBA website www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au

[Revised principles for assessments of competency standards for preliminary consultation](#)

The National Board has approved for preliminary consultation the revised *Principles for the assessment of national competency standards* (the Principles).

In 2002, the (then) Australian Nursing Council developed the Principles that became a National Board document at the start of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) in July 2010. The Principles are a guiding resource for assessing the competence of enrolled nurses, registered nurses, nurse practitioners and midwives.

Following a four-week preliminary consultation process with select stakeholders, the revised Principles will then go to public consultation in accordance with the National Board's consultation process. The aim of the preliminary consultation is to road test proposed content to help identify any operational impacts, issues or concerns prior to the document's release for public consultation.

The current principles for the assessment of national competency standards for enrolled nurses and registered nurses are available under [Codes and Guidelines](#) on the National Board website.

[New project on International Qualified Nurses and Midwives \(IQNM\)](#)

The National Board has approved a project on the assessment of educational equivalence for internationally qualified nurses and midwives (IQNM) scheduled to commence in early 2013.

The project will include:

- a literature review into the assessment of educational equivalence for internationally qualified registered nurses, midwives and enrolled nurses;
- the mapping and analysis of end-to-end processes for Australia and New Zealand, and differences across states and territories within Australia, and
- recommendations for the future evidence-based and contemporary assessment of education equivalence, including wide-ranging consultation with stakeholders on the NMBA [Framework for the Assessment of Internationally Qualified Nurses and Midwives for Registration](#).

Project aims are to:

- identify lessons learnt from overseas health profession regulatory boards and accreditation authorities, with respect to process, scale and complexity of assessment
- provide a framework for a nationally consistent, rigorous, fair and transparent assessment process of education equivalence for all applications for registration in Australia, regardless of country of origin of the applicant, and
- enhance collaborative partnerships with external stakeholders, including the Nursing Council of New Zealand and Midwifery Council of New Zealand.

The National Board will publish more news on the IQNM project on its website as it progresses.

[National competency standards for nurse practitioners for public consultation](#)

Southern Cross University and the University of Sydney are collaborating in a research project commissioned by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to review the current NMBA *National competency standards for the nurse practitioner*.

The intention of this review is to make sure that the competency standards provide an accurate guide for nurse practitioner contemporary practice as well as the educational preparation they require to deliver professional health care.

The nurse practitioner competencies build on and expand on the competencies required of a registered nurse, and advanced practice within the registered nurse's scope.

The revised competencies are foundational and apply to all areas of nurse practitioner practice. They are the minimal requirements applicable across diverse practice settings and patient/client populations for both beginning and experienced nurse practitioners.

Please provide your feedback via the [National competency standards for nurse practitioners survey](#) link by **close of business on Friday 1 March 2013**.

You can also access the consultation from the current consultations page on the [National Board website](#).

NMBA is part of a Community Reference Group

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is establishing a Community Reference Group on behalf of all 14 National Boards in the National Scheme.

The Community Reference Group will consist of 10 members from the community to provide input and advice on how AHPRA and the National Boards can engage the community more effectively.

More information on how to apply to become a member will be available on the [AHPRA website](#) in coming weeks, with applications expected to close at the end of January 2013.

Welcoming the new Board members in ACT and Queensland

The National Board welcomes new appointments to members in the:

- [ACT Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#), and
- [Queensland Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#).

Specific details on the appointments will be published and announced on the [National Board website](#).

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:

- Celtic Training and Consultancy Pty LTD, Diploma of Nursing (Adelaide)
- Brisbane North Institute of TAFE , Diploma of Nursing (Caboolture)
- Job Training Institute, Diploma of Nursing (Dandenong)
- West Coast Institute of Training, Diploma of Nursing (Joondalup)
- Great Southern Institute of Technology, Diploma of Nursing (Albany), and
- University of Melbourne, Master of Nursing Science (Entry to Practice) (Parkville).

The National Board approved the following amendments to the list of approved programs of study:

- change in course code for the Flinders University, Bachelor of Nursing program.

The National Board approved following program prolongations:

- University of Western Sydney, Graduate Diploma in Midwifery until 31 December 2014.

The National Board approved the following condition to be removed from the Health Train Education Service, Diploma of Nursing:

- 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 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.

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

A Christmas message

The National Board takes this opportunity to acknowledge another important year in establishing the national regulation of nurses, midwives and students, and recognise the efforts of everyone who has contributed towards the improvement of nursing and midwifery regulation in Australia.

The National Board welcomes the support received from the Chairs and members of the state and territory boards of the NMBA, and our stakeholders – including government agencies, the community, professional associations, education providers, employers and nurses and midwives.

Our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible and we share our commitment of continuous improvement of the regulatory framework. Thanks to you, we are well positioned for the work needed in 2013 and beyond.

May the spirit of Christmas be with you and your families, and may the New Year bring you happiness and peace.

Ms Anne Copeland

Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

24 December 2012

For more information

- Keep up to date with regular news and updates on the National Board website www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.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