

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 27 February 2013 in the AHPRA Hobart Office, Tasmania

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.

[Project extension: Review of national competency standards for enrolled nurses](#)

The National Board has extended the research project to review the current approved NMBA *National competency standards for the enrolled nurse*.

Monash University is undertaking this project on behalf of the National Board. The primary purpose is to review the current enrolled nurse competency standards set by the National Board for relevance and currency against the contemporary role and scope of practice of an enrolled nurse.

The review project comprises an online survey and focus group participation, with interviews across various categories of enrolled nurses, and observation of enrolled nurses in their practice setting.

The project was originally anticipated to complete in July 2013. However, the target project end date has now moved to April 2014.

[New fact sheet on scope of practice for nurses and midwives](#)

The National Board has approved for publication a new fact sheet on scope of practice for nurses and midwives. The purpose of the fact sheet is to give advice to nurses, midwives, employers and the community.

The existence of two separate national registers, one for nurses and another for midwives, can create confusion about whether a person can work both as a nurse and a midwife, and if the practice of nursing and midwifery is too distinct for overlap.

The fact sheet on scope of practice addresses these questions and will soon be available under [FAQ and fact sheets](#) on the National Board website.

[National Board welcome letter to students of nursing and midwifery](#)

As part of an initiative to engage with students, the National Board has approved a welcome letter to be sent to students of nursing and midwifery.

The letter from the National Board Chair, Anne Copeland, is one way that the National Board can inform students during the developmental stage of their career of the role of the National Board and the regulation of nurses and midwives.

By directing students to specific areas of the National Board and AHPRA websites, the engagement aims to inform students what regulation of their practice means and how it applies to them.

Distribution of the letter to students will be through the heads of schools of nursing and midwifery, with the first letters going out in March 2013.

[Advertising guidelines review for public consultation](#)

The National Board went into a preliminary consultation on the revised *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services* as part of a joint consultation by all 14 National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Existing guidelines, jointly developed by all National Boards, require review at least every three years.

In response to the preliminary feedback, the draft guidelines are now amended to accommodate more clarity, including the roles and responsibilities. Once finalised, the revised guidelines will go out for public consultation and will be published under [Current consultations](#) on the National Board website.

Current *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services for nursing and midwifery* are available under [Professional Practice Guidelines](#) on the National Board website.

[Social media policy and Guidelines for mandatory notifications for public consultation](#)

The National Board went into preliminary consultation as part of joint review coordinated for all the National Boards. The consultation covered:

- a proposed social media policy – providing guidance on appropriate use of social media and online behaviour, and
- revised draft *Guidelines for mandatory notifications* – providing direction to nurses and midwives, employers of nurses and midwives and education providers about the requirements for mandatory notifications to prevent the public from being placed at risk of harm.

The revised draft *Guidelines for mandatory notifications* recognises that health professionals are also under an ethical obligation to notify concerns about a health professional, in accordance with the broad ethical framework set out in respective health professions' code of conduct. For the nursing and midwifery professions, the National Board has approved two codes; the [Code for professional conduct for nurses](#) and the [Code for professional conduct for midwives](#).

In response to the preliminary feedback, the draft revised guidelines are now amended. These will soon go out for public consultation and will be published under [Current consultations](#) on the National Board website.

[International Council of Nurses 25th Quadrennial Congress 2013 update](#)

National Board preparation continues for the International Council of Nurses (ICN) 25th Quadrennial Congress 2013 taking place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 18–23 May 2013.

The Australian College of Nursing, formerly the Royal College of Nursing Australia and College of Nursing, is a member organisation of ICN and is assisting in hosting the congress in Melbourne this year.

National Board members, some state and territory board members of the NMBA and AHPRA representatives will attend the congress.

The National Board invites all nurses attending the International Council of Nurses (ICN) 25th Quadrennial Congress to visit its exhibition booth that will run throughout the event.

Registrations are still open for the congress – visit the [ICN website](#) to learn more. You can go direct to the online [registrations page](#) to register.

[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:

- Central Queensland University, Bachelor of Nursing (Brisbane and Emerald, QLD)
- Lonsdale Institute, Initial Registration Of Overseas Nurses (RN) (Myrtleford, VIC)

- Edith Cowan University, Master of Nursing (NP) (Joondalup, WA)
- University of Melbourne, Master of Advanced Nursing Practice (NP) (Carlton, VIC)
- University of Tasmania, Graduate Diploma Of Midwifery (Launceston, TAS).

The National Board approved for five years with conditions the following programs of study:

- Southern Cross University, Bachelor of Midwifery (Gold Coast, QLD)
- Education, Training and Employment Australia (ETEA) – Initial Registration for Overseas Nurses program for Registered Nurses (IRON-RN).

The National Board approved major changes to the following programs of study:

- Monash University, Bachelor of Nursing – additional site: Clayton campus, Melbourne, VIC
- University of The Sunshine Coast, Bachelor of Nursing Science – additional campus in Gympie, QLD. Program to include a midyear intake at both the Sippy Downs and Gympie campuses.

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

- University of Tasmania, Graduate Diploma of Midwifery H6C – expires 6 June 2013, and program to be moved into inactive
- Central Queensland University, Bachelor of Nursing – expires 15 January 2015, and program to be moved into inactive
- Education, Training and Employment Australia (ETEA) – expires 31 January 2013, and program to be moved into inactive
- Edith Cowan University, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) – expired 31 December 2012. Program to be moved into inactive
- Southern Cross University, Bachelor of Midwifery – expires 31 December 2013, and program to be moved into inactive
- Act Health, Midwifery Refresher Program – change in expiry date from 31 May 2014 to 31 December 2014 due to an error on the *Approved Program of Study* list
- University of New England, Bachelor of Nursing (with exit for Advanced Diploma in Nursing – pre-enrolment) – change in expiry date from 1 January 2013 to 1 January 2014 due to an error on the *Approved Program of Study* list.

The National Board approved the following program prolongations:

- Southbank Institute of Technology, Diploma of Nursing until 1 April 2013
- The Bremer Institute of TAFE, Diploma of Nursing until 1 April 2013
- Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE, Diploma of Nursing until 1 May 2013.

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

Ms Anne Copeland

Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

18 March 2013

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