

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 18 April 2013 in the Canberra, ACT

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.

In order to facilitate engagement with local stakeholders across states and territories, the National Board now holds its monthly meeting in a different state and territory every two to three months.

This helps the National Board to gain a better understanding of the jurisdictional matters relating to the regulation of nurses and midwives, and supports information sharing with the local branches or chapters of the Australian College of Nursing, Australian College of Midwives, and the Australian Nursing Federation; Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officers and education providers, among other stakeholders, on the National Board's strategic priorities, projects and regulatory functions.

[Workshop on matters regarding contemporary midwifery practice](#)

The National Board is planning a workshop with key midwifery stakeholders, including the Australian College of Midwives in September 2013. The intention of the workshop is to explore regulatory, matters relating to contemporary midwifery practice.

The workshop is a valuable means for the National Board to engage relevant stakeholders in matters affecting the regulation and professional practice of a midwife.

It will serve as a forum to help clarify the National Board's role and responsibility, according to the National Law and the regulatory framework within which the National Board works. It will also inform the National Board on its strategic directions for midwifery regulation.

['Competency standards' to 'Standard for practice' for nurse practitioner](#)

Southern Cross University and the University of Sydney have collated and analysed stakeholder feedback from a public consultation (survey), implemented as part of a National Board funded collaborative research project.

The project's purpose is to undertake a review of the existing national competency standards for the nurse practitioner (as available on the [National Board website](#))

The public consultation closed on 1 March 2013, and feedback has informed further revision of the national standards.

Among a number of stakeholder recommendations is the view that the term 'competency' does not accurately reflect current usage of this word in contemporary professional practice. The National Board has noted the proposal to change and replace the term 'competency standards' with 'standards for practice' in the project documentation, pending submission of the final project report mid this year.

Subject to the National Board's decision on this proposal, this would see similar changes to the competency standards for the enrolled nurse, the registered nurse and the midwife when the documents are reviewed.

[Celebrating nurses and midwives in May 2013](#)

The National Board united with the rest of the world this May in commemorating the [International Day of the Midwife](#) (5 May 2013) and [International Nurses Day](#) (12 May 2013).

'The health and safety of the public is at the core of our role. Our aim is to make sure that the Australian public has access to qualified and competent nurses and midwives for safe, quality care,' said Anne Copeland, National Board Chair.

This year's overarching theme for midwives, as published on the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) website, is *The World Needs Midwives Now More than Ever*, with the sub-theme 'Midwives Save Lives'.

'Evidence is overwhelming that professional midwifery care for every woman and newborn is the single most important factor, if the world is to achieve the millennium development goals in relation to improving maternal health and reducing child mortality,' said Ms Copeland.

This year's theme for nurses, as published on the International Council of Nurses (ICN) website, is [Closing the Gap: Millennium Development Goals \(MDG\). 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1](#). This theme is intended to be a countdown to 2015, with an emphasis on achieving the United Nations' global health related goals, including:

- *MDG 4: reducing child mortality*
- *MDG 5: improving maternal health, and*
- *MDG 6: combating HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases.*

'Nurses work in all areas of health care with a diverse range of clients. The circumstances in which they work can sometimes be very challenging. In addition, nurses working at an advanced practice nursing level or in a nurse practitioner role are often immersed in situations of high complexity that demand an equally high level of skill, knowledge and experience,' said Ms Copeland.

The following media releases are available on the National Board website:

- [National Board recognises special day for midwives](#), and
- [National Board marks International Nurses Day](#).

[International Council of Nurses 2013 / New Zealand Nursing Council visit](#)

The National Board looks forward to seeing attending nurses at its booth at the International Council of Nurses (ICN) 25th Quadrennial Congress 2013 happening at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 18–23 May 2013.

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

After the ICN congress, the National Board will have pleasure of hosting a visit by the New Zealand Nursing Council. This will take place in Melbourne at the next National Board meeting on 23 May.

The visit will see the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the National Board and the New Zealand Nursing Council.

In the spirit of the [Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement](#), a non-treaty arrangement between the Australian (Commonwealth), state and territory governments of Australia and the Government of New Zealand, the MOU will formalise a close collaborative relationship between the two entities.

Areas of collaboration will include:

- developing standards for regulating nurses
- exchanging professional knowledge toward developing these standards
- recognising nurses mutually, and
- enabling flexible movement of nurses between Australia and New Zealand.

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:

- Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE Diploma of Nursing, Toowoomba, Kingaroy, Warwick and Roma
- The Bremer Institute of TAFE - Diploma of Nursing, Bundamba Qld
- Pilbara Institute of TAFE - Diploma of Nursing, South Hedland WA
- Goldfields Institute of Technology - Diploma of Nursing, Kalgoorlie WA
- Victoria University - Diploma of Nursing, St Albans Vic
- Southbank Institute of Technology - Diploma of Nursing, Southbank Campus Qld
- C.Y.O'Connor Institute - Diploma of Nursing, Northam and Narrogin WA.

The National Board approved the following to be moved into 'inactive' in the list of approved programs of study:

- Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE Diploma of Nursing HLT51607
- The Bremer Institute TAFE Diploma of Nursing HLT51607
- Goldfields Institute of Technology Diploma of Nursing HLT51607
- Southbank Institute Technology Diploma of Nursing HLT51607
- C.Y.O'Connor Institute of Technology Diploma of Nursing HLT51607.

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

9 May 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