

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
25 July 2013 in Brisbane, Queensland

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, midwives and students.

It also supports information sharing on the National Board's strategic priorities, projects and regulatory functions with the following local representatives from the:

- Queensland Nurses Union
- Australian College of Midwives
- Australian College of Nursing
- Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer
- education providers, and
- other stakeholders.

Ministerial Council approves change to eligible midwife registration standard

The National Board has published on its website important information relating to the *Eligible midwife registration standard*.

This follows the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council's (Ministerial Council) approval of an extension from 30 June 2013 to **30 June 2015** of the provision in the *Eligible midwife registration standard* for an applicant seeking notation as an eligible midwife.

In addition to either holding an approved qualification, or having completed a program of study that is substantially equivalent to an approved qualification, the provision provides for the eligible midwife to make a formal undertaking to complete an approved qualification in prescribing scheduled medicines within an 18 month period from the date of notation as an eligible midwife.

Once completed, this allows the eligible midwife to apply for an endorsement to prescribe scheduled medicines and access the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). In the meantime eligible midwives have access to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and, are able to order timely diagnostic tests for women in their care.

For more information, please read the National Board's [Media release on the *Eligible midwife registration standard*](#).

As part of the strategic workplan for 2013/2014, the National Board will shortly start the review of both the *Eligible midwife registration standard* and the *Registration standard for endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives*.

This will involve public consultation to seek stakeholder feedback on any proposed improvements to these registration standards.

[Nurse practitioner standards for publication](#)

The National Board has approved publication on its website the newly revised *Nurse practitioner standards of practice*.

The standards, previously referred to as *National competency standards for the nurse practitioner*, were first published in 2006 and came under National Board ownership on 1 July 2010 at the onset of the National Scheme.

Southern Cross University and the University of Sydney collaborated in the delivery of the Board-funded project to extensively review the standards for relevance and currency against the contemporary role and scope of practice of nurse practitioners.

By completion in June 2013, the project had taken into account relevant local and international literature, and the current scope of practice and role of nurse practitioners across Australia.

Research included a survey of nurse practitioners, interviews with nurse practitioners, consumers and observations of nurse practitioners in practice. Feedback from wide-ranging public consultation with key National Board stakeholders was also integrated to inform revisions to the core standards.

These are now the minimum standards of practice across diverse practice settings and patients/clients for both beginner and experienced nurse practitioners.

The newly revised standards of practice will soon be available on the National Board website, and are to be read in conjunction with relevant documentation available under [Codes and guidelines](#) on the National Board website, including:

- National competency standards for the registered nurse
- Code of professional conduct for nurses in Australia
- Code of ethics for nurses in Australia, and
- A nurse's guide to professional boundaries.

[Registration standard for scheduled medicine endorsement for public consultation](#)

The National Board will soon go to public consultation on a revised *Registration standard for endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses and midwives*.

This proposed registration standard is now expanded to include midwives and nurses working in areas other than rural and isolated practice. It enables a registered nurse and/or a midwife with an endorsement for scheduled medicines to obtain, supply and administer scheduled medicines.

The registration standard sets out the qualifications and other requirements that must be met in order for the National Board to grant a registered nurse and/or a midwife the endorsement under section 94 of the National Law.

Under the proposal, the registered nurse and/or the midwife may be authorised to supply and administer schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 medicines in a particular health service.

However, the endorsed registered nurse or midwife would still be required to comply with any of the following as approved or issued under the relevant state or territory legislation:

- drug therapy protocol, or
- Chief Health Officer standing order, or
- Health Services Permit.

The consultation on the revised registration standard will soon be published under [Current consultations](#) on the National Board website.

The National Board encourages you to share this consultation with other stakeholders who may be interested so that they can participate in giving feedback.

Stakeholder forum in Queensland

As part of its engagement drive, the National Board held a forum for Queensland stakeholders in Brisbane on 25 July 2013.

The purpose of the forum was to give the National Board an opportunity to outline its strategic directions and the work of national committees in policy, accreditation and finance and governance.

It also enabled discussion and questions from local stakeholders including government and education representatives on the role of the National Board and its continuing work in the regulation of nurses, midwives and students in the public interest.

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

Nursing

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

- The University of Adelaide, Bachelor of Nursing (Adelaide, SA)
- Wodonga Institute of TAFE (ADF), Diploma of Nursing (Latchford Barracks, VIC)
- Tasmanian Polytechnic, Diploma of Nursing (Hobart, Launceston and Devonport)
- James Cook University, Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner (Townsville, QLD)

The National Board approved with major modification the following program of study:

- Careers Australia, Diploma of Nursing (QLD)

The National Board approved removal of conditions for the following program of study:

- Careers Australia, Diploma of Nursing (QLD)

The National Board approved a change in unit code from the National Training package HLT51607 to National Training package HLT51612 for the following education provider:

- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Education Centre

Midwifery

The National Board approved for five years the following midwifery program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration:

- Griffith University, Screening, Diagnostics, Pharmacology and Prescribing for Midwives (Logan, QLD).

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

Ms Anne Copeland

Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

14 August 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