

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 24 October 2013 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.

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 enrolled nurses, registered nurses, midwives and students.

It also supports information sharing on the National Board's strategic priorities, projects and regulatory functions with local representatives from the professional and industrial organisations, education providers and employers, health department and members of the local state or territory board of the NMBA.

Midwifery

National Board at Australian College of Midwives conference

The National Board participated in the Australian College of Midwives' (ACM) 18th biennial conference held in Hobart from 30 September to 3 October 2013. The theme for the conference was life, art and science in midwifery.

The National Board's participation in the conference aligned with one of its key strategic priorities in the National Board strategic plan 2013 -15, namely to be the recognised leader in nursing and midwifery regulation.

This allowed National Board members and AHPRA staff supporting the National Board to engage with midwifery stakeholders. It also reinforced the National Board's commitment to increasing its access to stakeholders for both the midwifery and the nursing professions.

Welcoming participants to the conference to its exhibition booth, the National Board gained access to midwives and midwifery stakeholders and embraced the opportunity to communicate directly with them.

Nursing and Midwifery

National Board current consultations

Consultation name	Consultation type	Closing date	Comments
<i>Re-entry to practice for nurses and midwives</i>	Public	9 December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft <i>Re-entry to practice policy</i> • Draft <i>Principles for assessing applicants for re-entry to practice</i> • Draft <i>Re-entry to practice self assessment tool</i> • Draft <i>Re-entry to practice - Fact sheet</i> • Draft <i>Supervision guidelines for nursing and midwifery</i>
<i>Common registration standards for nurses and midwives</i>	Public	23 December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>English language skills registration standard</i> • <i>Criminal history registration standard</i> <p>The National Board's English Language registration standard is not due for review until September 2014.</p> <p>However, in participating in this all National Boards' review, the NMBA is looking to take advantage of new evidence that may arise, and consider modifications to its English language skills registration standard.</p>
<i>Safety and quality framework for midwives</i>	Preliminary	25 November 2013	Preliminary consultation is to a small targeted stakeholder group before public consultation, and it helps to road test the proposed content to help identify any operational impacts, issues or concerns prior to the document's release for public consultation.

Meeting with Australian and New Zealand Chief Nurses and Midwifery Officers in Darwin

Dr Lynette Cusack – Presiding Member of the National Board (NMBA), Chris Robertson – Director National Board Services and Queensland (AHPRA) and Alyson Smith – NMBA Executive Officer (AHPRA) attended a meeting with the Australian and New Zealand Chief Nurses and Midwifery Officers on 27 September 2013 in Darwin.

This meeting enabled the National Board to inform and discuss national and jurisdictional regulatory matters. Consensus was for these meetings to continue regularly to further improve communication and cooperation between Australian and New Zealand Chief Nurses and Midwifery officers, the National Board and AHPRA.

Audit of enrolled nurses, registered nurses and midwives

The National Board and AHPRA have developed a national approach to the auditing of enrolled nurses', registered nurses' and midwives' compliance with four of the five mandatory registration standards: recency of practice; continuing professional development; professional indemnity arrangements; and criminal history check.

Each time a nurse or midwife applies to renew their registration, they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their respective profession.

The audits, conducted by AHPRA on behalf of the National Board, are an important means to better protect the public by regularly checking that random samples of enrolled nurses, registered nurses and midwives are meeting the requirements of the registration standards. They also help give important assurance to the community and the National Board.

Pilot audits, including checking compliance against the recency of practice and continuing professional development registration standards for nursing and midwifery, were designed to determine the frequency, size and type of audits required and to establish AHPRA's ongoing audit methodology.

With the conclusion of pilot audits, auditing of all health professions within the National Scheme by AHPRA has started. Please refer to the NMBA [audit page](#) for more information.

If you are selected by AHPRA for the NMBA annual audit, you will be:

- notified in writing, and
- requested to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of each of the registration standards.

[Australian College of Nursing inaugural oration and National Nursing Forum](#)

The National Board participated in the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) inaugural oration, members' day and the ACN two-day National Nursing Forum held in Canberra at the National Convention Centre from 20 – 22 October 2013.

The Board of ACN honoured Professor Denise Fassett, health practitioner member for Tasmania in the National Board, by inviting her to deliver the ACN inaugural oration. Professor Fassett's oration was an engaging, inspiring and personal reflection on her nursing practice in Tasmania. Titled 'Island Ingenuity', Professor Fassett engaged with the theme of the forum: 'Success Through Synergy'. She reflected on her career in nursing and, more broadly, health, against the backdrop of Tasmania where she lives and works as Dean, Faculty of Health Science, University of Tasmania.

Inspired by the challenges of providing health care in a community dwelling in an island state with diverse locations – metropolitan, rural and remote – and culture developed through its perceived isolation from the mainland and its history, Professor Fassett described the search for local solutions with national and international applicability.

Telling her story alongside the importance of collaboration in health care, nursing and interdisciplinary practice, she delivered an oration that was thought-provoking, contemporary and positively focussed. It was warmly received and was an excellent kick-start to the National Nursing Forum that followed.

Welcoming participants to the conference to its exhibition booth, the National Board gained access to nurses and nursing stakeholders and embraced the opportunity to communicate directly with them.

[National Board member wins Australia Institute of Management Award](#)

The National Board congratulates Ms Angela Brannelly, health practitioner member for the Northern Territory who was named *Professional Manager of the Year – Public Sector* for the Northern Territory in October 2013.

The Australian Institute of Management (AIM) excellence awards focus on recognising individuals in the workplace whose vision, skill and integrity stand out from the rest and inspire others to succeed.

Ms Brannelly took one of five annual awards, namely:

- **Professional Manager of the Year - Public Sector**
- Professional Manager of the Year - Private Sector
- Not For Profit Manager of the Year
- Owner Manager of the Year

- Young Manager of the Year

Ms Brannelly's winning category recognises executives of public sector enterprises who have worked for their organisation in a professional management capacity for at least 12 months. It targets ordinary people who do extraordinary things for their organisations on a day-to-day basis.

As a health practitioner member of the National Board, Ms Brannelly is in her second term of appointment. She is also a member of the Finance and Governance Committee of the National Board and Chair of the [Northern Territory Board of the NMBA](#).

Newsletter update

We take this opportunity to say thank you to all the nurses and midwives who gave feedback on our September 2013 edition of the National Board newsletter.

The National Board recognises the value of engagement with us on a range of matters and appreciates your time and effort in doing so. It helps us better understand things that are important to the nurse and midwife as you continue your invaluable contribution to the health and wellbeing of the Australian community.

We have made every effort to respond to your queries directly, or to direct them to the relevant team that will attend to your matter. For issues relating to employment or industrial issues, we have suggested alternative contacts because the scope of the National Board's focus is only on the regulation of nurses and midwives.

Issue 7 of our newsletter comes out this November 2013 and it will be the last newsletter for the year. Items featuring include our 2012/13 annual report, registration matters, consultations, new nurse practitioner standards for practice coming into effect on 1 January, and much more.

Is there anything you would like to hear more about in our quarterly newsletter?

Your feedback is important to us – email us at newsletters@ahphra.gov.au

Approved 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 as a registered nurse:

Education provider	Program	Campus
Victoria University	Bachelor of Nursing	St Albans, Vic
Holmesglen	Bachelor of Nursing	Moorabbin, Vic
Flinders University	Bachelor of Health Sciences/Bachelor Nursing	Bedford Park, SA

The National Board approved with major modification the following program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as an enrolled nurse:

Education provider	Program	Modification
Careers Australia	Diploma of Nursing	Removal of a condition and increase in student numbers at the NSW site

The National Board approved the removal of a condition for the following program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as a registered nurse:

Education provider	Program
Central Queensland University	Registered Nurse Re-entry

The National Board approved the following to be moved into 'inactive' in the list of approved programs of study (The program is no longer approved for new enrolments):

Education provider	Program
Victoria University	Bachelor Nursing
Holmesglen	Bachelor Nursing
Central Gippsland Health Service	Return to Practice – Enrolled Nurse

The National Board approved the prolongation of accreditation for currently accredited nursing programs:

Education provider	Program	Expiry date	Revised expiry date
University of Southern Queensland	Post Graduate Certificate in Advanced Practice (Rural and Remote)	1 December 2013	1 July 2014
Monash, Gippsland	Bachelor of Nursing Practice	1 October 2014	1 October 2015
University of Ballarat	Bachelor of Nursing	16 June 2015	16 December 2015
University of Tasmania	Bachelor of Nursing	1 February 2015	1 February 2016

The National Board approved the change in unit code from the National Training package HLT51607 to National Training package HLT51612 as providing a qualification for the purpose of registration as an enrolled nurse for Advance TAFE.

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

Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse

Presiding Member, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

13 November 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