

## Communiqué

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### Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 28 November 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.

#### Merry Christmas

The National Board takes this opportunity to thank the state and territory boards of the NMBA, AHPRA, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) and other stakeholders for collaborative efforts over the past 12 months, in continuing work to align with the National Scheme's objectives and guiding principles. The goodwill and commitment of all involved has allowed the National Board to uphold protecting the public.

Thank you to consumers, government, professional associations, industrial organisations, education providers, nurses, midwives and other health profession National Boards, for your important and helpful contribution to National Board key projects, initiatives and accomplishments during the year.

*Best wishes and a prosperous New Year to you and your families.*

#### Engaging in international nursing regulation

##### **International Nurse Regulators Collaborative meeting**

National Board Presiding Member Dr Lynette Cusack attended the International Nurse Regulators Collaborative meeting on 1 November 2013 in Toronto, Canada. This meeting encourages discussion on nursing regulation with colleagues from Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States of America, and opens up opportunities for collaborative work.

Topics considered during this collaborative meeting included a proposed international project regarding the recidivism risk (potential to relapse) for nurses who have had discipline findings; review of the current guidelines and resources on social media; implications for regulators of e-health, tele-health and virtual practice; and risk assessment for complaints against nurses.

## ICN Credentialing and Regulators Forum

Dr Lynette Cusack, National Board Presiding Member, represented the National Board at the International Council of Nurses Regulation and Credentialing Forum that ran from 4 - 5 November 2013 in Ontario, Canada.

Professional nursing associations and nursing regulators presented and discussed a range of topics on important issues that emerged in environmental scans and country reports.

Topics included:

- Certification and specialisations – discussion on how nurses optimise scope of practice
- Evolving regulatory models
- The role of regulators, national nursing associations and other stakeholders in collaborating on quality and safety in the workplace
- Continuing competence and/or revalidation
- The roles of regulatory authorities, policymaking bodies, and professional associations in aligning entry level education curriculum and content with the scope of practice required of future nurses
- Nurse prescribing - how it has been working, and
- Inter-professional practice: Implications for regulation.

More on the forum is available on the [ICN website](#).

### Audit is now business as usual

AHPRA conducted pilot audits on behalf of three National Boards to develop a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with the mandatory registration standards. The pilot audit for nursing and midwifery during 2013 is in its final stages. A published report is due in early 2014.

From July 2013, all professions – including nursing and midwifery – are now audited against their respective mandatory registration standards of criminal history, continuing professional development (CPD), recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements. Unlike the pilot audit, the timeframe for the nursing and midwifery audit is not aligned to the annual registration renewal (31 May).

Selection for audit is a random process, with sample sizes determined for statistical significance according to the size of the profession and the registration types of that profession. The details of audit specifics are not made public.

The nursing and midwifery audit is an important way that the National Board can better protect the public by regularly checking the declarations made during the previous renewal of registration for a random sample of enrolled nurses, registered nurses and midwives. They help to make sure that nurses and midwives are meeting the requirements of the standards and give important assurance to the community and the National Board.

## Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

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

<b>Education Provider</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Campus</b>
University of Canberra	Bachelor of Midwifery	Bruce, ACT
James Cook University	Graduate Diploma of Midwifery	Townsville, Qld
La Trobe University	Graduate Diploma of Midwifery	Bundoora and Bendigo, Vic

The National Board approved for five years the following program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as a registered nurse.

<b>Education Provider</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Australian College Of Nursing (trading as the College Of Nursing)	Return to Register Registered Nurse & Entry Program for Internationally Qualified Nurse Registered Nurse	Burwood, NSW
Australian College of Nursing (trading as the College Of Nursing)	Return to Register Enrolled Nurse & Entry Program for Internationally Qualified Nurse - Enrolled Nurse	Burwood, NSW

The National Board approved for five years the following program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as a registered nurse and midwife:

<b>Education Provider</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Campus</b>
James Cook University	Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery	Townsville, Qld
La Trobe University	Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery	Bundoora VIC

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

<b>Education Provider</b>	<b>Program</b>
University of Canberra	Bachelor of Midwifery
James Cook University	Graduate Diploma of Midwifery
La Trobe University	Graduate Diploma of Midwifery

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

<b>Education Provider</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Details</b>
Australian College Of Nursing (trading the College Of Nursing)	Return to Register Enrolled Nurse & Entry Program for Internationally Qualified Nurse Enrolled Nurse	.

The National Board approved the following to be moved into 'inactive' in the nursing and midwifery lists of approved programs of study (these programs are no longer approved for new enrolments):

<b>Education Provider</b>	<b>Program</b>
James Cook University	Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery
La Trobe University	Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery

The National Board approved the prolongation of accreditation for the following accredited nursing program:

<b>Education Provider</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Expiry Date</b>	<b>Revised Expiry Date</b>
University of New England	Bachelor of Nursing	1 January 2014	31 March 2014

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**  
17 December 2013

#### **For more information**

- Keep up to date with regular news and updates on the National Board website [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)
- Visit [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://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