

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 24 January 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.

National Board project extensions

- *Review of national competency standards for nurse practitioners*

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

Southern Cross University and the University of Sydney are the two collaborative parties in this Board-funded project, whose aim is to make sure competency standards continue to provide an accurate guide for nurse practitioner contemporary practice.

The project is also assessing the educational preparation that nurse practitioners require to deliver professional health care.

The standards and competencies are foundational and apply to all areas of nurse practitioner practice. The revised standards and competencies are currently on public consultation on the National Board website.

As the consultation opened during the December/January festive season, the National Board extended its closing date to 1 March, an additional two weeks to the normal eight-week public consultation period. This extension will support engagement and feedback from all stakeholders. As a result, the collaborative research project's end date from May has now moved to the end of June 2013.

To participate in the public consultation, please provide feedback via the [National competency standards for nurse practitioners survey](#) link by **close of business on Friday 1 March 2013**.

- *Professional indemnity insurance for privately practising midwives*

The National Board has approved expansion to the scope of the Board-funded research project on professional indemnity insurance (PII) for privately practising midwives.

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law); registered health practitioners must not practice their profession unless they have appropriate PII arrangements in place.

PricewaterhouseCoopers is undertaking the research project on behalf of the National Board.

The project was anticipated to complete in February 2013, with the objective to carry out a selective international and national review of professional indemnity insurance arrangements and claims, specifically in relation to midwifery practice and obstetric practice.

Additional scope includes collection and analysis of Medicare Australia data, claims and tribunal data and assessment of the privately practising midwives workforce and practice.

This has resulted in the target project end date moving to the end of April 2013.

[Pilot audit of nurses' and midwives' compliance with registration standards](#)

The National Board has taken the next step towards auditing nurses and midwives' compliance with the Board's [mandatory registration standards](#).

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is developing a nationally-consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with mandatory registration standards, and in a phased approach has piloted an audit of practitioners from the chiropractic, optometry and pharmacy professions. On behalf of the National Board, AHPRA will schedule an audit on registrants during the registration renewal cycle for 2013.

As with earlier phases, outcomes of this phase will inform the next steps for further developing and refining an audit framework and its subsequent rollout across all National Boards.

The National Board will publish web updates as planning for the pilot advances and more information becomes available. Details on the approach to audits piloted to date are published on the [AHPRA website](#).

[National Board submission on proposal to protect midwifery practice under state legislation](#)

The National Board undertakes regulation of nursing and midwifery professions to protect the public through registration standards, professional codes, standards and guidelines that underpin safe and competent practice.

As an important stakeholder, the National Board is making a submission by 1 March 2013 to the Government of South Australia (SA) on a proposal to protect the practice of midwifery under state legislation.

The SA proposal is now out for public consultation, and aims to help protect mothers and their babies against unregistered midwives and medical practitioners.

If passed, the new state legislation will render it an offence for a person to engage in the practice of midwifery in South Australia without being a midwife or a medical practitioner registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([the National Law](#)).

[National Board accountability and transparency – panel hearing decisions](#)

AHPRA, on behalf of the National Boards, has now published a table of [panel hearing decisions](#) dating back to July 2010. About thirty of these relate to the nursing and midwifery professions.

Where there is educational and clinical value, the table also includes summaries accessible as hyperlinks. Consistent with requirements of the National Law, health practitioners' names are not published.

Also now online are [summaries of some Tribunal decisions](#) handed down since the start of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme ([National Scheme](#)).

[Community Reference Group – applications closed February 2013](#)

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is establishing a Community Reference Group on behalf of all 14 National Boards in the National Scheme.

The Community Reference Group will consist of 10 members from the community to provide input and advice on how AHPRA and the National Boards can engage the community more effectively.

Applications for the reference group recently closed and more information on the membership will be published on the [AHPRA website](#) in coming weeks.

[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:

- Australian Catholic University, Bachelor of Nursing (North Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Ballarat and Canberra)
- Australian Catholic University, Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Paramedicine (Brisbane, Ballarat and Canberra)
- Australian Catholic University, Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Business Administration (North Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne)
- Australian Catholic University, Bachelor of Midwifery (Brisbane and Melbourne)
- University of the Sunshine Coast, Master of Midwifery (Sippy Downs, QLD)
- Central Queensland University, Graduate Diploma of Midwifery (Mackay and Noosa, QLD)
- Care Training Australia, Diploma of Nursing (Murrumbeena and Carnegie, Victoria)
- University of Queensland, Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery (Ipswich campus)
- Wide Bay Institute of TAFE, Diploma of Nursing (Bundaberg and Gympie, QLD).

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

- TAFE SA, Diploma of Nursing.

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

- Skills Training Australia, Diploma of Nursing – additional campus in Cowes, Victoria
- Institute of Health and Nursing Australia, Diploma of Nursing – additional campus in Perth.

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

- Brisbane North Institute of TAFE, Diploma of Nursing – listed as HLT51612 (previously HLT51607)
- TAFE NSW, Diploma of Nursing – course code listed as 14393 (previously 4393).

The National Board approved the following program prolongations:

- Goldfields Institute of Technology, Diploma of Nursing until 31 March 2013
- Australian Centre for Further Education, Initial Registration for Division 1 Overseas Registered Nurses until 31 January 2013.

The National Board approved the following program changes in unit codes, nominal hours or mode of delivery from the national training package HLT51607 to HLT51612:

- Australian Catholic University
- Victoria University, and
- Celtic Training & Consultancy.

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

19 February 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