

## Communiqué

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### Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 27 February 2014 in the AHPRA National office, Sydney, NSW

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.

#### National Board hosts stakeholder forum in Sydney

The National Board held a stakeholder forum on Thursday 27 February 2014 in Sydney. Participants included nursing and midwifery professional associations and education providers.

The purpose of the forum was to enable:

- the National Board to outline its strategic directions and work of National committees for policy, accreditation, finance and governance, and
- local stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the National Board's role and work in regulating nurses, midwives and students.

In addition to a question and answer session, topics covered included:

- National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme)
- Functions of the National Board
- Functions of AHPRA
- NMBA strategic plan 2013-2015
- State and territory boards of the NMBA, and
- National Committees of the National Board i.e. Finance and Governance Committee, Policy Committee and the Accreditation Committee.

As well as National Board members presenting, NSW AHPRA representatives were in attendance to address operational matters arising.

Participant feedback was overall good and confirmed that the forum provided networking opportunity, with good participation and interaction.

## Internationally qualified nurses and midwives (IQNM) – expert group appointed

The National Board approved the appointment from February to December 2014 of members to a newly established internationally qualified nurses and midwives (IQNM) expert group.

Members include:

- two National Board members with educational expertise
- two representatives from the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)
- two academic representatives from the higher education sector for both nursing and midwifery
- two academic representatives from the Vocational Education and Training Sector for nursing
- two academic representatives from the higher education sector, and
- three senior AHPRA staff, including the Chair of the IQNM Expert Group

The IQNM expert group provides an important function on behalf of the National Board and in accordance with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (National Law).

The role of the IQNM expert group includes:

- implementing the Board-approved model for the assessment of equivalence of qualifications consistent with section 53(b) of the National Law
- making recommendations to the National Board about any refinements or amendments required in order to apply the approved model in a legally defensible, nationally consistent, fair and transparent manner, and
- undertaking the assessment of the qualifications of IQNM applicants.

## 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:

<b>Education provider</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Monash University	Initial Registration for Overseas Nurses (Registered Nurse)	Monash University Clayton
Cunningham Centre Rural and Isolated Practice (Scheduled medicines)	Registered Nurse (RIPRN)	Queensland Health Cunningham Centre – Cairns Education and Research Unit – Rockhampton Hospital DPAR Consulting - Victoria

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

<b>Education provider</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE	Diploma of Nursing	Loganlea and Alexandra Hills

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

<b>Education provider</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amendment</b>
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Institute of Health and Nursing Australia	Diploma of Nursing	Removal of condition on accreditation
Education Training and Employment Australia	Initial Registration for Overseas Nurses (Registered Nurse)	Removal of condition on accreditation
TAFE NSW	Diploma of Nursing	Removal of condition on accreditation
Australian College of Nursing	Return to Register Enrolled Nurse and Entry Program for Internationally Qualified Enrolled Nurse  Return to Register Registered Nurse and Entry Program for Internationally Qualified Registered Nurse	Change to the education provider name

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

Education provider	Program	Expiry date	Revised expiry date
La Trobe University	Master of Nursing ((Nurse Practitioner)	18 February 2015	18 June 2015

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**  
 19 March 2014

#### 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