

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 27 March 2014 in the AHPRA National office, Melbourne, VIC

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.

Recognising service nurses and midwives this ANZAC Day

This ANZAC Day marks the 100 year anniversary as we remember Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought and died at Gallipoli in 1915. To commemorate the centenary and recognise the courage and sacrifice of nurses and midwives who contributed in service during conflict, representatives of the National Board will lay wreaths at national, state and territory war memorial sites. We remember all women in action and, in particular, nurses and midwives.

Enrolled nurse standards of practice for preliminary consultation

The National Board has approved draft *Enrolled nurse standards for practice* to go to preliminary consultation.

The primary aim of this project is to revise the current *Enrolled nurse standards for practice* for relevance and currency against the contemporary role and scope of practice of enrolled nurses. Three proposed domains of practice being consulted on are:

- professional and collaborative practice
- provision of care, and
- reflective and analytical practice.

Standards for practice, (formerly known as competency standards), are a minimum expectation of practice and inform the education standards for enrolled nurses. They also serve in regulation in determining fitness for practice, and guides employers and other stakeholders on what to reasonably expect from an enrolled nurse.

Preliminary consultation to targeted key stakeholders provides the opportunity to road test the proposed content to help identify any operational impacts, issues or concerns prior to release for an extended period of public consultation.

Safety and quality framework for midwives for public consultation

We are going to public consultation in early 2014 on a revised *Safety and quality framework* (SQF) for midwives.

The public consultation follows a preliminary consultation that ran from October—November 2013. This preliminary consultation to a target audience gave us the opportunity to road-test proposed content to help identify any operational impacts, issues or concerns before release for an extended public consultation.

The revised SQF brings together all the existing legislative and policy requirements for midwifery practice and is inclusive of all midwives regardless of place of practice. Through this 'one stop' comprehensive approach, the SQF is designed to help midwives shape their professional practice so they can provide safe, accountable, woman-centred care.

When the consultation publicly opens for feedback from all stakeholders, the consultation paper will be available under [Current consultations](#) on the National Board website.

Nurse Regulators Collaborative position statement on social media

The National Board has given feedback on a draft position statement on social media for nursing, in response to an invitation by the International Nurse Regulators Collaborative (INCR). The INRC allows member regulatory organisations to recognise potential benefits from a collaborative relationship to better protect public health, safety and welfare.

Noting that the INCR position statement on social media is aligned with the new social media policy released on the National Board website in March 2014, the National Board recommended in its feedback:

- the inclusion of a definition of social media
- rewording to clarify a section titled 'confidentiality'
- addition of referencing to existing policies, standards and/or guidelines of the regulatory body in each jurisdiction.

The INRC social media guidance specifies common expectations for nurses; the need for nurses to know the benefits and risks of social media while managing professional image; the requirement for confidentiality and respecting client privacy; and maintaining boundaries, integrity, employer policies and accountability among other things.

International Nurse Regulator Collaborative forum in May

The next International Nurse Regulator Collaborative forum is coming up in Geneva in May 2014.

This group, of which the National Board is a member, includes representatives from nursing regulators in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United States of America, Singapore and United Kingdom.

In 2011, the National Board signed a two-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the nursing and midwifery regulators in these countries. The scope of cooperation is to:

- seek input of each organisation into agreed cooperative activities
- exchange information about:
 - key professional and political policy issues
 - planned strategic research or projects, and
- develop joint regulatory research projects.

Representatives of the National Board are attending the Geneva forum and will provide information on primary topics covered.

Employer services for checking registration

The National Board reminds all employers to check the registration details and status of registration of employees using one of the following services:

- [National register](#) – this is a free service where you can check the registration details of a nurse or a midwife, one at a time.
- [Practitioner information exchange \(PIE\)](#) – PIE offers the benefits of a secure data source for batch requests.
- [Convert legacy registration numbers](#) – you can use online services to convert legacy registration numbers. If you do not have an employer login, you can request this using an [online enquiry form](#)
- [Multiple registration checks](#) – you can request publicly available registration details of up to 50,000 nurses or midwives using their registration numbers.
- [Late period / expired registration](#) – you can check the national register to see if your employee's registration has expired. The National Law provides for one month late period for registration renewal.

These online services also work best to verify the validity of a registration certificate against fraud and to confirm proper use of protected titles. Visit the National Board website to read:

- [Explanatory note and FAQ: Title protection.](#)

Do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you:

- have reason to believe that a person is not registered with the National Board but claims to be a registered nurse, an enrolled nurse or a midwife, or
- are concerned about someone's use of a protected title.

Joint communiqué with ANMAC

The National Board has published a joint communiqué with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). The communiqué is on the meeting of the National Board and ANMAC on 21 March 2014 in Melbourne. The purpose of a joint forum is to build a strong collaborative relationship between the organisations.

Read the [communiqué](#) under news on the National Board website.

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

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

Education provider	Program
Brisbane North Institute of TAFE	Diploma of Nursing
Australian College of Nursing	Return to Register Enrolled Nurse
Australian College of Nursing	Return to Register Registered Nurse
Careers Australia	Diploma of Nursing
Monash University	Therapeutic Medication Management Unit

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

Education provider	Program	Expiry date	Revised expiry date
Federation University Australia	Diploma of Nursing	1 Jan 2015	1 Jan 2016
ACT Health	Registered Nurse Refresher Program	1 May 2014	30 June 2015
ACT Health	Overseas Qualified Nurse Program	1 May 2014	30 June 2015

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):

Education provider	Program
University of Ballarat	Diploma of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing,
Monash University (Gippsland Campus)	Bachelor of Nursing Practice, Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery

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

Education provider	Program
University of Ballarat	Graduate Diploma of Midwifery
Monash University (Gippsland Campus)	Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery, Graduate Diploma of Midwifery

The National Board approved the following change in education provider name:

- University of Ballarat and Monash University (Gippsland campus) to Federation University Australia
- HealthTrain to Train@CQUniversity

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
10 April 2014

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