

Communiqué

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

Health profession regulation

The National Board welcomed a visit to its meeting by Mr Harry Cayton, Chief Executive of Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care in the UK ([the Authority](#)).

The Authority oversees the UK's nine health and care professional regulatory bodies, including the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). The Authority reports annually to the UK parliament on its performance in protecting the public and uses an approach of right-touch regulation to frame contributions towards quality and safety of healthcare in the UK. The Authority achieves this by assessing and targeting risk or finding ways to promote best practice using minimum regulatory force to achieve the desired result.

In addition to experience on public and voluntary committees, national and international, Mr Cayton is also a published author and a regular speaker at global conferences.

Mr Cayton led discussion at the meeting on contemporary challenges affecting regulators. He talked about the status of health professional regulation in the UK, including principles of transparency, accountability, responsibility and candor or open disclosure, and the endeavour to have these principles entrenched in law in the UK.

He challenged the National Board to contemplate quality assurance in decision making. The National Board identified there was a need to establish quality assurance mechanisms and was particularly interested in Mr Cayton's views on regulatory leadership and continuous improvement.

He shared his experiences and lessons understood, leading to an interactive discussion that encouraged thought and debate on improving health regulation, and the broader issues of right-touch regulation.

Audit report

The National Board and AHPRA have developed a nationally consistent approach to auditing the compliance of nurses and midwives with mandatory registration standards. Audits help better protect the public and occur periodically across all professions throughout the year.

A report of an initial pilot audit of nurses and midwives that ran from May to November 2013 shows that 84.5 per cent of the audit sample met the requirements of the registration standards under audit.

For those who did not meet the requirements, outcomes included:

- 1.6% withdrawn applications for registration
- 4.4% referred to the National Board for determination of registration or restrictions on registration
- 7.7% failed to renew registration
- 1.4% changed to non practising registration
- 0.4% were ineligible for audit.

In summary, this was an overall positive result with a good majority of the random sample showing compliance with registration standards.

The National Board is exploring opportunities and strategies to improve compliance with the registration standards across the professions.

More information about the audit is available under [Audit](#) on the National Board website. A copy of the audit report will soon be available on our website.

International Day of the Midwife

On Monday 5 May 2014 the National Board joined the rest of the world to commemorate the [International Day of the Midwife](#).

This year's theme has accompanied the international day of the midwife across years: *The World Needs Midwives Now More than Ever*, with a new subtheme of *Midwives changing the world one family at a time*.

The National Board recognises the important contribution that the 33,436 registered midwives in Australia make to health and well being of women, their families and the community more broadly.

Read the [media release](#) on the National Board website.

International Nurses Day

On Monday 12 May 2014 the National Board also joins the rest of the world to commemorate the [International Nurses Day](#).

This year's theme is *Nurses: A force for change – a vital resource for health*.

The National Board commends Australia's 321,995 enrolled nurses, registered nurses and nurse practitioners for their invaluable contribution to the health and well being of the Australian community.

Look out for a media release on this day.

Recognising service nurses and midwives on ANZAC Day

This ANZAC Day was a step closer to the ANZAC centenary as we remember Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought and died at Gallipoli. To recognise the courage and sacrifice of nurses and midwives who contributed in service during conflict, National Board members and representatives laid wreaths at national, state and territory war memorial sites.

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 an enrolled nurse:

Education provider	Program	Campus
Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE	Diploma of Nursing	Sippy Downs and Nambour, Queensland

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

Education provider	Program	Campus
University of Canberra	Pharmacology and prescribing for Midwives	Canberra, ACT

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	Details
Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE	Diploma of Nursing	Course code HLT51607
Flinders Medical Centre (Royal Adelaide Hospital) Registered Nurse Re-entry	Registered Nurse Re-entry	

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

7 May 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