

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 29 May 2014 in the AHPRA office, Darwin

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.

New National Board Chair

The National Board welcomed Dr Lynette Cusack, RN, as the new Chair, following appointment on 6 May 2014 by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. Dr Cusack served in the role of Presiding Member of the National Board since 31 August 2013, when Ms Anne Copeland completed her term as Chair.

Dr Cusack brings to her new role an extensive and esteemed history of working in regulation.

Committed to strengthening the relationships between the National Board and key stakeholders on nursing and midwifery regulation, education and workforce matters, Dr Cusack also continues in her role as the inaugural practitioner member from South Australia.

National Board hosts stakeholder forum in Darwin

The National Board held a stakeholder forum on Wednesday 28 May 2014 in Darwin. Participants included nursing and midwifery professional and industrial associations, as well as 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:

- the National Scheme
- Functions of the National Board

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- 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, Northern Territory AHPRA representatives were in attendance to address operational matters arising.

The forum provided networking opportunity, allowing members of the National Board and AHPRA to engage with stakeholders.

Workshop on risk-based regulation

Some members of the National Board attended a workshop on risk-based regulation that Prof. Malcolm Sparrow delivered.

Prof. Sparrow is Professor of the Practice of Public Management at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He regularly delivers executive leadership programs for regulatory organisations.

Professor Sparrow's central thesis is that regulators exist to reduce harms to the public, and therefore need an understanding of what harm is occurring, what problems are creating the harm and how to tackle those problems using targeted interventions.

He encourages a skilled and thoughtful problem-solving approach to understanding the character of harms and regulation. In his approach, data analysis is the underpinning intelligence for assessing problems and developing solutions.

He observes how most organisations produce reports with tables of data that reflect their functions and activities, rather than problems solved. Prof. Sparrow argues that these reports do not reflect that the regulators are actually making a difference in their ultimate role of reducing harm.

He puts forward a new way of orienting regulatory organisations, one that – instead of being based on functional and geographical activity – focuses on problem identification and thoughtfully deploying existing resources to solve problems.

Registration principles for decision making

The National Board has approved registration principles for decision makers to apply when assessing applications for initial registration, renewal and endorsement. The registration principles, developed through workshopping and consultation with states and territory boards of the NMBA, help to make sure that decisions are consistent across states and territories.

The principles are an internal guide based on protecting the public, taking into account workforce matters and applying a consistent process in decision making.

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

The National Board approved the following campuses for the Diploma of Nursing at TAFE NSW:

Education provider	Program	Campus
TAFE NSW	Diploma of Nursing	Queanbeyan and Bateman's Bay

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

Education provider	Program	Amendment
Flinders University	Bachelor of Nursing	<p>BNGU BN (Pre-Registration) offered at Flinders University Riverland Campus</p> <p>BNGG BN (Graduate Entry) Flinders University Sturt campus</p> <p>BNGP BN (Re-entry) Flinders University Sturt Campus</p> <p>BNG BN (Registered Nurse Entry – initial registration) Flinders University Sturt Campus</p>

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
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
 23 June 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