

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 27 November 2014 at The Playford, Adelaide

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the National Board or NMBA) is the national regulator for nursing and midwifery 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.

NMBA Conference

The NMBA's first national two day conference took place in Melbourne from 9 to 11 November 2014. Whilst many of the initial hurdles of the National Scheme have been overcome, this conference provided an opportunity to reflect on our experiences and contribute to developing the understanding and capabilities required to ensure robust and consistent decision making.

Several speakers and members of the health profession and community shared their reflections and views on a range of topics from current issues in regulation of nurses and midwives, rural and remote regulatory issues, IQNM regulatory issues to the future of healthcare in Australia. The underlying theme in all conversations and presentations was, moving towards regulating consistently but discerningly, streamlining practices and improving international workforce regulation.

In particular, key note speaker Dr Ian Freckleton, QC, a full time barrister and previously longstanding member of the Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria and the Psychologists Registration Board of Victoria, spoke on the development and review of the National Scheme four years on. Dr Freckleton also gave insights on health practitioner regulation in Australia, the importance of the roles of the national board and state and territory boards and future challenges for the regulation of nurses and midwives.

We closed the conference by highlighting three key themes and challenges;

- Community engagement - the patient and the public are at the heart of NMBA and AHPRA's work and we should look at further ways to engage with the public and community.
- Complexity and consistency – it is important that we acknowledge that we are in a complex scheme, and work through it. We need to strive towards consistency in decision making through transparent well documented critical analysis.

- Courage - to make the right decisions to keep protecting the public, keep using evidence to inform decision-making, and being clear about roles and responsibilities in the National Scheme.

The answer to managing these challenges, I believe is better communication with key stakeholders, between and across the national boards and the state and territory boards, and ensuring that AHPRA is part of that communications process.

Stakeholder forum South Australia

The National Board held a stakeholder forum on 26 November 2014 in Adelaide. 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, SA AHPRA representatives were in attendance to address operational matters arising.

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

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has approved the following programs of study November 2014

Full accreditation of midwifery programs for five years:

| Education Provider | Program | Campus |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Deakin University | Grad Dip Mid | Burwood VIC |

Full accreditation of nursing programs for five years:

| Education Provider | Program | Campus |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bendigo TAFE | Diploma of Nursing | Bendigo |
| RMIT | Diploma of Nursing | Bundoora and Melbourne CBD, VIC |

| | | |
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| Charles Darwin University | Diploma of Nursing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casuarina • Alice Springs • Katherine • Melbourne |
| The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has approved major modifications to the following programs: | | |
| Education Provider | Program | Modification |
| Job Training Institute | Diploma of Nursing | Additional campus at Adelaide, SA |
| University of Southern Queensland | Bachelor of Nursing | Additional campus at Geraldton, WA |
| The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has approved the following programs to move into 'inactive' in the list of approved programs of study (these programs are no longer approved for new enrolments): | | |
| Education Provider | Program | |
| Deakin University | Graduate Diploma of Midwifery | |
| Bendigo TAFE | Diploma of Nursing | |
| RMIT | Diploma of Nursing | |
| The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has approved prolongation of accreditation for following programs: | | |
| Education Provider | Program | Revised Expiry Date |
| University of South Australia | Australian Registered Nurse Training Program | 7 May 2016 |
| GO TAFE | Diploma of Nursing | 30 April 2015 |

Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
9 December 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
Items for NMBA communiqué