

## Joint communiqué

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### Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council – 21 March 2014 in Melbourne

The *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each State and Territory ([the National Law](#)) establishes a National Accreditation and Registration Scheme ([National Scheme](#)) for health professionals, including the professions of nursing and midwifery. As two independent entities under the National Law, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (National Board) and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) have two distinct and separate roles and responsibilities in relation to the accreditation functions

The regulatory bodies carry out separate and independent functions and the partnership is based on the underlying premise that the two agencies will work together to promote the objectives and guiding principles of the National Scheme.

#### NMBA and ANMAC – a national regulatory partnership

The purpose of a joint forum between the NMBA, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Board of ANMAC is to build a strong collaborative relationship between the organisations. Membership to the forum comprises:

- Members of the NMBA
- Director members of ANMAC
- AHPRA staff:
  - Director of National Board Services
  - Executive Officer, Nursing and Midwifery
- Chief Executive Officer, ANMAC

The second meeting of the NMBA and the Board of ANMAC occurred in Melbourne on Friday 21 March 2014.

The NMBA and Board of ANMAC discussed:

- How the strategic goals of the regulatory partnership will be realised in effective collaboration, communication and operational systems.
- The criticality of the NMBA and the Board of ANMAC continuing to focus on strategies to ensure:
  - a competent and ethical nursing and midwifery workforce to protect the community
  - ongoing development of a flexible, responsive and sustainable health workforce, and
  - innovation in education and health service delivery.

- 'Right touch' regulation.
- The importance of stakeholder engagement and effective consultation in the work of both NMBA and the Board of ANMAC.
- Exploration of the opportunities for research to underpin the development and review of accreditation standards, e.g. requirements for clinical experience and simulation in education programs.
- Matters relating to internationally qualified nurses and midwives seeking to be registered and work in Australia.
- Provide clarity for stakeholders on the differences types of standards used as part of the regulatory scheme:
  - Registration standards
  - National standards for practice (previously known as competency standards)
  - Accreditation standards
- Strategies for increasing the awareness of nurses and midwives of all aspects of regulation.

The next forum is planned for October 2014.