

Being a Board member of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

July 2014

Functions of the National Board

Our work

The following summarises the work of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (National Board):

- Register nurses, midwives and students of nursing and midwifery
- Set national registration requirements
- Develop registration standards, professional codes and guidelines to inform nursing and midwifery practice
- Manage notifications, investigations and panel hearings, and
- Approve national accreditation standards and accredited programs of study.

The core of the National Board's function is to protect the public.

Our vision, mission and values

Our vision: To ensure a flexible nursing and midwifery workforce that meets the current and future needs of the Australian community through competent and safe practice

Our mission: To provide leadership to nurses, midwives and students of nursing and midwifery through regulation in the public interest in accordance with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and in partnership with stakeholders

Our values: These are the values underlying our actions:

Visionary • Consistent • Accountable • Collaborative

Appointment to the National Board

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) makes National Board member appointments. These appointments are announced through [Ministerial directives and communiqués](#).

The names and profiles of current National Board members, including the Chair, are available under [About](#) on the National Board website.

Length of term as a National Board member

The National Boards Succession Planning Principles (January 2012) state:

Principle 1. The standard length of term for National Board members appointed by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council will be 3 years

Principle 2. The frequency of new National Board member appointments will be every 3 years

Principle 3. National Board members may serve a maximum of up to three terms

Principle 4. An exception to the maximum continuous terms of National Board chairs may be considered if needed

Our committees

The National Board has a number of committees, each with a function to support the National Board in meeting its legislative obligations.

Membership of each committee comprises members of the National Board.

The following are the main National Board committees:

- **Policy Committee:** Initiates and leads policy development for the regulation of nursing and midwifery professions in Australia, and monitors and implements related projects and strategies.
- **Finance and Governance Committee (FGC):** supports the National Board by making sure operations are carried out efficiently, effectively and economically.
- **Accreditation Committee:** Directs, reviews and evaluates policy related to the accreditation functions of the National Board.

There are also state and territory boards and committees, as shown in Figure 1 below:

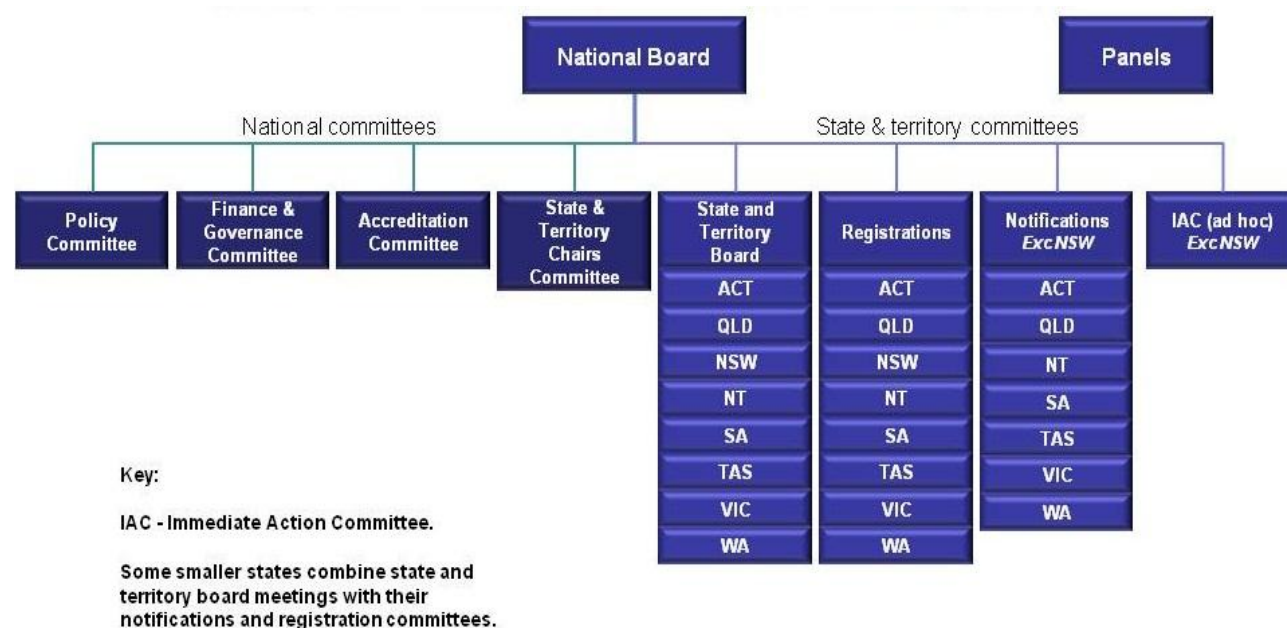


Figure 1. Overview of National Board and state & territory board and committees

Members of the state and territory boards of the NMBA are appointed by the Minister for Health in each jurisdiction, as practitioner or community members

These boards support the National Board in meeting its legislative obligations. In particular they are responsible for making decisions about nurses and midwives on matters of registration and notifications.

The following are the main state and territory board committees:

- **State and Territory Chairs Committee:** Comprises delegates from each state and territory board of the NMBA; focus is on information exchange and national consistency on matters relating to the national regulation of nurses and midwives.

- *Registration committees / Notification committees*: The National Board has delegated to state and territory boards the decision making relating to registration and notification¹ matters for nurses, midwives and students within each jurisdiction. Members are appointed by the National Board; each committee comprise three practitioner members and at least one community member of the respective state and territory board of the NMBA.
- *Immediate action committees (IAC)*: All members of the state and territory boards of the NMBA are by default appointed by the National Board to the immediate action committee of the respective board. As and when necessary to convene in relation to the registration of, or notifications made about practitioners, the Chair of the relevant state and territory board selects three members for the specific IAC. Membership must comprise two practitioner members and one community member of the state and territory board of the NMBA.

Our panels

Under the National Law, a National Board convenes health panels and performance and professional standards panels when required to hold hearings into specific health, performance or conduct matters for individual registered health professionals.

Such panels consist of members chosen from a National Board-approved list of persons.

Appointments to the *Approved persons* list are for up to three years, with eligibility for re-appointment,

Time commitment

- The National Board meets for a full day each month and on occasion for out-of-session meetings.
- Chairs of state and territory boards of the NMBA meet monthly for a two-hour meeting and on occasion for a face-to-face meeting.
- State and territory boards meet monthly; this may be face-to-face or by teleconference or video conference.
- National committees meet for a full day each month – more or less depending on respective workload.
- State and territory committees meet monthly – more or less depending on respective workload.
- Board members may be required to undertake special assignments on behalf of the National Board.
- Board members are expected to undertake professional development activities that enhance their contribution to the work of the National Board.
- Interstate travel and occasional international travel is required.

Expectations of National Board members

- Attend meetings on a regular basis, and special assignments as required.
- Do all pre-reading for meetings or special assignments.
- Make necessary preparation, as needed, to allow full and active participation at meetings of the National Board and its committees.
- Participate, as required, in National Board and committee performance reviews.
- Be a member of a National Board committee, and participate as needed in ad-hoc committees.
- Be alert to keeping the public safe, in alignment with NMBA mission, objectives, and programs.
- Participate in ongoing professional development activities and relevant National Board training programs.
- Understand the National Law, policies and guidelines of the National Board.
- Work in collaboration with AHPRA to achieve the missions of the National Law.

¹ New South Wales is a co-regulatory jurisdiction and the Nursing and Midwifery Council of NSW is responsible for notifications matters relating to nurses, midwives and students NSW