

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 29 January in the AHPRA office, Melbourne

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 NMBA 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 NMBA now holds its monthly meeting in a different state and territory every two to three months.

This helps the NMBA 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 NMBA'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.

Specialist registration position statement

The NMBA has completed a project exploring the need for registration of speciality practice within the nursing profession. As a result of the project the NMBA has concluded that will be no additional recognition of nursing specialties. Further information about this will be made available shortly on the [NMBA website](#).

Preliminary consultation for Registered nurse standards for practice

The NMBA is conducting preliminary consultation with key internal stakeholders on *Registered nurse standards for practice* (incorporating a review of the current national competency standards for the registered nurse).

Since the competency standards for the registered nurse last reviewed in 2006, there have been substantial developments in role and scope of practice across Australia. There are also changes in education and training leading to registration and the regulatory framework within which registration and enrolment of nurses and midwives occurs. This has provided the catalyst to review the standards to make sure they reflect contemporary practice and the right educational preparation.

Following this period of internal consultation, extensive public consultation will be conducted in the near future.

Nursing and Midwifery Codes of Professional Conduct and Professional boundaries review

The NMBA has a suite of codes and guidelines to provide guidance to the nursing and midwifery professions. A project has been approved to review the following documents through extensive public consultation during 2015:

- i. *A nurse's guide to professional boundaries*

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

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- ii. *A midwife's guide to professional boundaries*
- iii. *Code of professional conduct for nurses in Australia.*
- iv. *Code of professional conduct for midwives in Australia*

ICN sponsorship of commercial exhibit

The NMBA will participate in the International Council of Nurses (ICN) conference 2015 (ICN 2015) in Seoul, Korea from 19 to 23 June 2015. The conference theme is Global Citizen, Global Nursing.

Nurses, regulators and educators, both locally and internationally, will have an opportunity to engage with the NMBA face-to-face. This in turn facilitates the recognition of the NMBA as a leader in nursing and midwifery in Australia.

New approach to international criminal history checks

As of 4 February 2015, National Boards and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) have implemented a new procedure for checking international criminal history to provide greater public protection. This new approach requires [certain applicants and practitioners](#) to apply for an international criminal history check from an AHPRA approved supplier.

This approach aligns our international criminal history checks (ICHC) with our domestic history checks and aims to be fair and reasonable for practitioners. It also provides the Australian community with greater assurance by implementing additional safeguards to manage risks to the public from someone's international criminal history.

For more information, please read the [media release](#) on the AHPRA website

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

The NMBA has approved the following programs of study in January 2014

Nursing programs approved for five years:

Education Provider	Program	Campus
Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE)	Diploma of Nursing	Shepparton, Echuca, Cobram (2 sites), Wangaratta, Benalla and Seymour, Victoria

Approved major modifications of an accredited nursing program:

Education Provider	Program	Modification
Victoria University	Diploma of Nursing	The Victoria University Diploma of Nursing is accredited until 2018 and delivered from the St Albans campus with approval by ANMAC to extend the delivery of the program to include the theory component only from the Werribee campus. Students have been travelling to the St Albans campus during 2014 to undertake the simulation laboratory component. Victoria University has submitted a request for a Major Modification to utilise the new purpose built simulation laboratory at the Werribee campus commencing first semester 2015.

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	Details
Central Gippsland Health Service	Return to Practice Program	Central Gippsland Health Service has requested the Return to Practice Program for Midwives be moved to the Inactive List as the program is no

	for Midwives	longer offered
Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE)	Diploma of Nursing	ANMAC has accredited a Diploma of Nursing program to be offered at Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE). On approval of the program by the NMBA the currently accredited and approved program will be moved to the Inactive List.

Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
09 February 2015

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