

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 26 March in the AHPRA national 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.

Draft registration standards considered

The Board considered the:

- draft *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives*, and
- draft *Registration standard: Endorsement as a nurse practitioner* and associated guidelines (on safety and quality, and for nurses applying for endorsement as a nurse practitioner.)

Both standards were open for public consultation in 2014, and the NMBA would like to thank everyone who made a submission to these consultations. The submissions will be published to the *Past consultations* section of the NMBA website.

The NMBA will finalise the registration standards and guidelines and present the standards to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) for their consideration. AHWMC must approve registration standards before they can be implemented.

Once the final standards are approved, the NMBA will publish the content of the new standards approximately six weeks before they come in effect, to allow nurses and midwives to become familiar with the new requirements.

Approved funding for nursing and midwifery codes of conduct and professional boundaries review

The NMBA will undertake a phased review of the *Code of professional conduct and code of ethics for nurses and midwives*, with the aim of separating the codes of conduct from the professional boundaries documents.

The rationale for this is that professional boundary issues are not always a matter of unprofessional conduct, but sometimes related to overstepping boundaries in another way (i.e. 'caring too much').

Appointments to committees

The NMBA welcomes all new appointments to the following committees.

Appointments to state and territory committees

Victorian State Board member Mr Gregory Miller was appointed to the Registration Committee and Immediate Action Committee of the Victorian Board of the NMBA from 26 March 2015 to 30 June 2017.

Appointments to NSW registration committee

In order to improve efficiency of applications from internationally qualified nurses and midwives, the NSW Registration Committee of the NMBA has approval to comprise all members of the NSW Board of the NMBA, with a quorum of three.

Appointments to the WA registration committee and notifications committee

Several WA board members have been appointed to committees of the National Board for up to three years from 18 March 2015.

Appointments include:

- WA Registration Committee of the NMBA:
 - Mr Michael Piu (Community Member) to 8 September 2015, and
 - Ms Jennifer Wood (Practitioner Member) to 16 March 2016.
- WA Notifications Committee of the NMBA:
 - Ms Marie-Louise Macdonald (Practitioner Member) to 17 March 2018
 - Ms Karen Gullick (Practitioner Member & Chair) to 17 March 2018, and
 - Ms Virginia Seymour (Community Member) to 17 March 2018.

Review of the NMBA committee structure

The NMBA has agreed to several changes to its committee terms of reference as part of changes to its structure, including the potential for state and territory board members to be co-opted as voting members of an NMBA committee.

As part of changes to the committee structure, the Notifications and Compliance Policy Committee will meet at a different time, and the selection advisory panel will be able to make recommendations to the NMBA about the membership of the revised committee.

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

Full accreditation of a nursing program for five years:

Education provider	Program	Details
La Trobe University	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)	Bundoora and Bendigo campus.

Full accreditation of a midwifery program:

Education provider	Program	Details
University of Technology, Sydney	Bachelor of Midwifery/Bachelor of Creative Intelligence	Accreditation period sought: 14 December 2016 as for the current approved UTS Bachelor of

(UTS)	and Innovation	Midwifery.
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Amendment and matter for consideration:

Education provider	Program	Details
Education, Training and Employment Australia (ETEA)	Initial Registration Course for Division 1 Nurses (IRON RN)	An extension of the current accreditation period of 1 February 2016 for the IRON RN program offered by ETEA to 1 February 2018.

Approval to move an approved nursing program of study from the NMBA Approved Programs of Study list into 'inactive':

Education provider	Program	Details
La Trobe University	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)	ANMAC has accredited a Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program to be offered by La Trobe University. On approval by the NMBA for the Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program the currently accredited and approved program will move to the inactive list.

Approval to prolong accreditation for the following currently accredited nursing programs:

Education provider	Program	Details
Box Hill Institute of TAFE	Diploma of Nursing	An extension of the current accreditation period from 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015.
Federation Training	Diploma of Nursing	An extension of the current accreditation period from 31 January 2016 to 31 May 2016.
Sunraysia College of Health and Nursing	Entry Programs for Internationally Qualified Nurses – Registered Nurse	An extension of the current accreditation period from 26 September 2015 to 26 September 2016.

Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse
 Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
 23 April 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