

## Communiqué

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### Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 30 April at QT Canberra

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.

#### **NMBA Stakeholder forum – Australian Capital Territory**

The NMBA held a stakeholder forum on 29 April 2015 in Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Participants included nursing and midwifery professional associations and education providers. The NMBA was pleased to welcome the ACT board chair Ms Emma Baldock to the stakeholder forum and the NMBA meeting

The purpose of the forum was to enable:

- the NMBA 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 NMBA
- 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.

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

## International Nurse Regulator Collaborative 2015

The Chair, Deputy Chair, and executive officer attended the International Nurse Regulator Collaborative (INRC) meeting in Vancouver, Canada on March 31 2015. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to discuss our work and unique experiences as well as develop shared learnings with other international nursing and midwifery regulators.

### Re-entry to practice policy approved

We have approved a revised version of the policy for Re-entry to practice. This policy provides information for nurses and midwives who do not meet the [Recency of practice registration standards](#) and wish to re-enter practice.

We have also approved provisional registration for nurses and midwives who are no longer registered and are applying to re-enter practice as a nurse or midwife. Provisional registration will be available from 1 July 2015.

We will publish the revised policy and associated documentation on [our website](#) in the coming weeks, to allow nurses and midwives to become familiar with the new requirements.

### Registered nurse standards for practice

The NMBA has funded a review of the Registered nurse standards for practice (formerly called competency standards). As a part of this review the NMBA is releasing for public consultation papers on the draft revised Registered nurse standards for practice.

More information including a background paper is available on our [current consultations](#) page.

Interested stakeholders are requested to provide feedback on the [draft revised Registered nurse standards for practice](#) via this [structured response consultation](#)\* released on 11 May 2015 and closing 3 July 2015.

\*When you click on this link, you will be taken to the structured response consultation on a third party website, hosted by Southern Cross University (SCU). SCU with a team led by Professor Andrew Cashin has been commissioned by the NMBA to review and revise the current National competency standards for the registered nurse and produce Registered nurse standards for practice. This work commenced in March 2014 and is on schedule to conclude at the end of October 2015. The information will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Policies of SCU [here](#) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on behalf of the NMBA [here](#).

## Membership of NMBA National Committees

The NMBA has made changes to its committee structure to more effectively respond to its regulatory responsibilities. From 1 June 2015, we will have the following committees comprising both practitioner and community members:

Finance, Governance and Communications Committee –functions:

- advise the NMBA on all financial, risk management and matters of accountability
- engage effectively with nurses and midwives and bodies relevant to the nursing and midwifery workforce

Policy, Compliance and Notifications Committee – functions:

- review and evaluate policy related to the notifications and compliance functions of the NMBA
- oversee notification and compliance matters including benchmarking indicators, quality of decision making, practitioner audit and national consistency

Registration and Accreditation Committee – functions:

- oversee all matters pertaining to the registration and accreditation functions of the NMBA, including functions related to internationally qualified nurses and midwives,

- direct, review and evaluate policy related to the registration and accreditation functions of the NMBA, and
- approve programs of study under delegation of the NMBA

### ANZAC Day wreath laying ceremonies

This ANZAC day various members of the NMBA took the opportunity to commemorate those who fought and died for Australia and the nurses who tended the sick and wounded.

The Darwin ANZAC Day Dawn Service was attended by Chair, Angela Bull and Deputy Chair Brian Philips of the Northern Territory Board. A wreath was laid at the cenotaph as part of the service.

In the early afternoon a wreath laying ceremony was held at the National Nurses Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. This has occurred each year since the inception of the National Scheme.

An honour guard was formed by service nurses and medics, including Alison Reardon, member of the ACT Board. Mary Kirk ACT National Board Member paid tribute to past and present nurses who served.

Wreaths were also laid for the NMBA by Emma Baldock (Chair ACT NMBA) and for the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council by Fiona Stoker (CEO).

### Website update regarding IQNMs

In April this year we launched new pages with updated content on the internationally qualified nurses and midwives sections on the NMBA website.

The [new section for internationally qualified nurses and midwives](#) makes it easier for users to access the commonly sought after information and services. Information relating specifically to internationally qualified nurses and midwives will be updated with the most current and relevant content.

We hope to improve customer experience for all our users including overseas applicants for registration, current practitioners, students, employers, government ministers and health departments, and the general public.

### Approved funding for nursing and midwifery codes of ethics review

The NMBA will undertake a review of the *Code of ethics for midwives* and the *Code of ethics for nurses* in July 2015. The NMBA will undertake wide ranging consultation as a part of the review of these documents.

### Approved programs of study leading to registration and or endorsement

Full accreditation of a nursing program for five years:

Education provider	Program	Details
<b>Curtin University</b>	Bachelor of Science (Nursing)	Bentley, WA
<b>Box Hill Institute</b>	Diploma of Nursing	Elgar Road Campus Box Hill Victoria Centre for Adult Education, Melbourne, Victoria
<b>Chisholm Institute</b>	Diploma of Nursing	Berwick, Victoria Frankston, Victoria

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

Education provider	Program	Details
<b>Curtin University</b>	Bachelor of Science (Nursing)	ANMAC has accredited a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) to be offered by Curtin University. On approval by the NMBA for the Bachelor of Science (Nursing) program the currently approved program should be moved to the Inactive List.
<b>Box Hill Institute</b>	Diploma of Nursing	ANMAC has accredited a Diploma of Nursing to be offered by Box Hill Institute. On approval by the NMBA for the Diploma of Nursing program the currently approved program should be moved to the Inactive List
<b>Chisholm Institute</b>	Diploma of Nursing	ANMAC has accredited a Diploma of Nursing to be offered by Chisholm Institute. On approval by the NMBA for the Diploma of Nursing program the currently approved program should be moved to the Inactive List

**Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse**  
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
19 May 2015

#### For more information

- Keep up to date with regular news and updates on the National Board website [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)
- Visit [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://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