

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 29 October in the AHPRA South Australia Office, Adelaide

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.

NMBA Adelaide stakeholder forum

The NMBA reported on a successful stakeholder forum, which was held in Adelaide the afternoon prior to the 28 October 2015 National Board meeting.

This was the first NMBA stakeholder forum where an open invitation was sent to all registered nurses and midwives in the Adelaide area. The session was attended by more than 120 nurses and midwives from across a broad range of work areas including: nursing and midwifery professional associations, government representatives, health service providers and education providers.

These forums were an opportunity for the NMBA to talk to stakeholders about:

- the structure and role of the NMBA as the regulator of nurses and midwives in Australia
- partnerships in regulation – the National Scheme
- its strategic directions, current projects and the work of national committees for policy, accreditation, finance and governance, and
- registration and notification data.

The forums also provided local stakeholders with an opportunity to ask questions, discuss the NMBA's role and work in regulating nurses, midwives and students and to find out more about NMBA registration standards, professional codes and guidelines.

The presentation delivered by Dr Lynette Cusack RN Chair and other members of the NMBA was very well received with participant feedback being positive overall. The success of this event confirmed that the forum provided a useful opportunity for networking opportunities, with good participation and interaction.

The NMBA will hold more stakeholder forums in the states and territories throughout 2016.

State and Territory Chairs Committee Meeting

The NMBA Chair met face to face with the Chairs of the State and Territory board of the NMBA on the 23 October 2015

This meeting provides an opportunity for the Chair of the NMBA to update the chairs on the current work of the NMBA and to discuss a range of both national and local matters.

Health Profession Agreement 2015/16

The NMBA Chair has signed the Health Profession Agreement (HPA) 2015/16 on behalf of the National Board after members agreed to accept the HPA.

Under the National Law, the NMBA and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) work in partnership to implement the National Scheme, each with specific roles, powers and responsibilities set down in the National Law.

The guiding principles of the National Law require the National Scheme to operate in a 'transparent, accountable, efficient, effective and fair way'; and for registration fees to be reasonable '...having regard to the efficient and effective operation of the scheme'.

Each year the NMBA and AHPRA publish a health professional agreement that details the services provided by AHPRA that enable the NMBA to carry out its functions under the National Law.

The current HPA is available from the [NMBA website](#) and the approved HPA 2015/16 will be published soon.

Upcoming International Nurse Regulators Collaborative meeting

The NMBA discussed the up and coming International Nurse Regulators Collaborative (INRC) - Credentialing and Regulators Forum. The NMBA Chair, Dr Lynette Cusack RN, will present on the topic of 'Regulation of Internationally Educated Nurses' at the forum, which is to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2-4 November 2015.

Statutory Appointments - Queensland

The NMBA welcomed the Queensland (Qld) Minister for Health's appointment of two new practitioner members to the Qld State Board. The members have been appointed from 21 September 2015 to 30 June 2018. The NMBA approved the newly appointed Board members to Qld committees of the National Board.

There is one practitioner vacancy remaining on the Qld board and a recruitment campaign is commencing to fill that positions. Further information about the position and application processes are available on the [NMBA website](#) under *news*.

The NMBA thanks the outgoing members of the Qld State Board Adjunct Associate Professor Veronica Casey and Ms Cathy Styles for their significant contributions to the Qld State Board.

Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
26 November 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 9275 9009 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200