

## Communiqué

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Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 17 December 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.

### Review of strategic objectives

The NMBA has reviewed the Strategic Plan 2013-2016 and the NMBA work plan for 2016-17 which is aligned with the NMBA strategic objectives. This includes activities, project initiatives and business as usual initiatives taking place in 2016-17. This work plan enables the NMBA in partnership with AHPRA to deliver its regulatory functions and provide for protection of the public. The NMBA will carry out a complete strategic plan review during 2016.

### Statutory appointments – New South Wales

Applications are sought from interested persons in New South Wales to fill a community member vacancy on the **New South Wales Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia**.

To be eligible for a community member vacancy you must not at any time have been registered as a health practitioner in the health profession for which the National Board is established.

Applications close on **Monday 1 February 2016**. More information can be found on the [board recruitment page](#) or email [statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au).

### Public consultation papers released

The NMBA has launched a public consultation on the *Registration standard for scheduled medicine endorsement – rural and isolated practice for public consultation*. The Board is inviting all interested parties to give feedback on the public consultation on the proposal to discontinue the *Registration standard for scheduled medicine endorsement registered nurses (rural and isolated practice)*. The current standard is available under [Registration standards](#) on the National Board website.

The National Board invites submissions to consider, among other things:

- whether the proposal to discontinue the registration standard is supported
- the likely effect of the proposal on individual registrants, and
- jurisdiction-specific considerations for health practitioners, governments or other stakeholders.

You are invited to provide your comments on the [consultation paper](#), by **22 February 2016** – please email your submission to [nmbafeedback@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:nmbafeedback@ahpra.gov.au).

## Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has approved the following programs of study in December 2015

The Nursing and Midwifery Board has approved full accreditation of the following nursing programs for five years:

Education Provider	Program	Campus
University of Southern Queensland	Bachelor of Midwifery (Graduate Entry)	Ipswich, QLD
Royal Ghurkhas Institute of Technology	Diploma of Nursing	Melbourne CBD, VIC

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has approved the following 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
<b>Train@CQUniversity</b>	Diploma of Nursing

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has approved the prolongation of accreditation for the following currently accredited nursing programs:

Education Provider	Program	Expiry Date	Revised Expiry Date
Wodonga Institute of TAFE	Diploma of Nursing	4 November 2016	4 February 2017

### NMBA newsletter – December edition

The NMBA has recently released the December edition of its newsletter. This newsletter contains important information relevant to the regulation and professional practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia. It also provides an update on all latest and critical NMBA activities, and is now available on the [NMBA website](#).

In this issue the NMBA discusses its revised registration standards that will come into effect this year, calls out for responses to a request for tender to develop the Midwife standard for practice and covers three important notification case studies.

### Quarterly statistics

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) requires that information about every registered health practitioner in Australia is published on a single national [register of practitioners](#). Under the National Scheme, it is possible to produce accurate reports on the number of practitioners registered in each profession in Australia.

The NMBA regularly publish quarterly data profiling Australia's nursing and midwifery workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants. The latest data is published [here](#).

### Health practitioner regulation: Learn how you're protected

A new video and an accompanying infographic explaining the Australia-wide scheme that is in place to protect members of the public was released by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in December.

Both resources are available on the [What we do](#) page of the AHPRA website or read the [news item](#) on the NMBA website for more information. The video can also be watched on AHPRA's [YouTube channel](#).

### **Best wishes for the festive season and the New Year**

This meeting was the last for 2015, and we are able to reflect on what was a very busy year for the NMBA. It will also be a challenging year ahead for us all.

I would like to thank every nurse and midwife for their commitment in support of our work towards ensuring that the Australian community has access to nurses and midwives who provide competent and suitably qualified. As long as this remains a core component of nursing and midwifery practice we feel confident that the care being delivered to the community is safe and of a high quality.

We look forward to 2016 and our continuing work by releasing new and updated registration standards, professional codes and guidelines for nurses and midwives, among our other priorities.

*We wish you and your family a prosperous New Year.*

**Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse**  
**Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia**  
15 January 2016

### **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 9275 9009 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200