

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia held on 31 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.

Internationally qualified nurses and midwives project status and way forward

The NMBA has approved a high level implementation plan to deliver outcomes-based assessment and orientation requirements for internationally qualified nurses and midwives (IQNM).

In February 2014, the NMBA introduced an interim model to assess the qualifications of international nurses and midwives, to establish whether an applicant's qualifications are substantially equivalent to NMBA-approved nursing and midwifery qualifications.

In order to move to a permanent approach, the NMBA commissioned a project to develop the requirements for, and establishment of, an outcomes-based assessment (OBA) of competence to practise for all IQNMs applying for registration in Australia. The aim is to ensure a nationally consistent, rigorous, fair, and transparent IQNM assessment process regardless of the country of origin of the applicant.

The project to date has provided considerable guidance to the necessary resources, funding and process required to achieve this outcome.

Evaluation of NMBA National Conference

Each year the NMBA holds a National Conference with the state and territory board members, New South Wales Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) members and senior AHPRA staff. The conference is important for the NMBA to facilitate communication and build effective relationships between the National Board, the state and territory boards, the NMC and AHPRA and to support consistent decision-making across the country, for the benefit of public protection. The objectives of the 2015 conference were:

- to further strengthen partnerships, alignment and consistency
- to use data to improve risk-based decision-making
- to embed regulatory principles to support robust and consistent decision-making
- to manage health impairments consistently, and
- to identify future challenges for nursing and midwifery regulation.

The conference was comprised of a range of speakers and workshops that enabled attendees to meet the objectives of the conference. The feedback from attendees at the conference was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of the range and content of the presentations and workshops. Attendees valued the opportunity to build relationships and networks.

NMBA stakeholder information forums

The NMBA acknowledged the success of the two stakeholder information forums held this month, at Cairns Hospital and Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, which drew great crowds. As part of its engagement activities with nurses and midwives, the NMBA is hosting stakeholder information forums across Australia during 2016. These forums provide an opportunity for nurses and midwives to learn more about the changes to the NMBA's registration standards, standards for practice and guidelines that will come into effect on 1 June 2016. The NMBA thanked the nurses and midwives who attended.

Meeting with international regulators

Dr Lynette Cusack, Chair of the NMBA, and Tanya Vogt, Executive Officer, attended the International Nurse Regulator Collaborative (INRC) meeting in Singapore early in March. The NMBA is a member of the INRC, which includes representatives from the United States of America, Canada, Singapore and New Zealand. The INRC holds at least annual meetings to discuss shared issues relating to the regulation of nurses. This meeting was hosted by the Singapore Nursing Board (SNB).

Nursing and Midwifery renewal now open

Nurses and midwives need to renew their general or non-practising registration by **31 May** under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Watch the short video to learn [how to renew your registration online](#).

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has considered the following programs of study in March 2016

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	Campus
Mercy Health Training Institute	Mercy Health Training Institute - Initial Registration for Division 1 Overseas Registered Nurses	The provider is no longer offering the program. The current program is to be moved to the Inactive List.

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
Health Skills Australia	Diploma of Nursing	19 September 2016	19 September 2017
Kangan Institute	Diploma of Nursing	1 May 2017	31 December 2017
Federation University Australia	Diploma of Nursing	31 May 2016	31 December 2017

NMBA newsletter – March edition

The NMBA has recently released the March 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 on 1 June this year and covers two important notification case studies.

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

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