

Fact sheet

Updated June 2019

Concurrent registration – being registered as both a registered nurse and an enrolled nurse

Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) undertakes functions as set by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The NMBA regulates the practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. The NMBA does this by developing standards, codes and guidelines which together establish the requirements for the professional and safe practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

This fact sheet provides guidance to nurses who wish to register as both a registered nurse (RN) and an enrolled nurse (EN).

Who does this apply to?

This fact sheet is relevant to:

- registered nurses
- enrolled nurses
- employers and
- education providers.

What do I need to know about being registered as both a registered nurse and an enrolled nurse – concurrent registration?

In accordance with the National Law, the NMBA recognises that you may hold registration as both an RN and as an EN – concurrent registration.

The registration requirements, level of education, responsibilities and scope of practice of an RN and an EN are different. Practising in both roles may create potential risks including:

- being able to differentiate and change between practising as an RN or as an EN and working within the relevant responsibilities and scope of practice, and
- employers or colleagues clearly understanding whether you are practising as an RN or as an EN and supporting you to work within the relevant responsibilities and scope of practice.

How can I reduce these risks?

You can reduce these risks by ensuring that you are fully aware of, and always work within, the scope of practice and standards expected within each role. You should also ensure that your employer and colleagues are clearly aware of the role in which you are practising.

What are my registration requirements when registered as both an RN and an EN?

In order to hold registration as an RN and an EN, you must satisfy the criteria for registration as set out in the National Law and all the relevant registration standards. For both types of registration you must hold a relevant qualification recognised by the NMBA. This means that you must hold a qualification as a registered nurse and a qualification as an enrolled nurse.

Note: Completing one year of a bachelor degree for nursing as a registered nurse is not equivalent to completing a Diploma in Nursing that leads to registration as an enrolled nurse

What are my requirements at renewal?

If you wish [to renew your registration](#) with the NMBA as both an RN and an EN you must be able to demonstrate that you meet all the [standards for practice](#) and registration standards required for each role, including [recency of practice](#) and [continuing professional development](#) (CPD) requirements for **both** types of registration.

What are my CPD requirements?

You are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of CPD for each registration you hold, that is, 20 hours as an RN and 20 hours as an EN. If CPD activities are relevant to both your RN and your EN role, those activities may be counted as evidence for both RN and EN CPD hours. The activities should be relevant to your context of practice and improve your knowledge, expertise and competence as an RN or as an EN.

More information on CPD is available on the [NMBA website](#)

What are my recency of practice requirements?

You need to be able to demonstrate that you have practised for the equivalent of 450 hours as an RN **and** the equivalent of 450 hours as an EN, over the past five years. There may be aspects of your practice that is relevant as both an RN and an EN and these hours may be counted for both registration types.

What are my practice requirements?

The NMBA's [decision making framework](#) and [standards for practice](#) provide guidance to both RNs and ENs when making decisions about scope of practice and responsibilities. In order to minimise risk when you are working, it is essential that you work within the scope and standards of practice relevant to the role you are working in that is, your role as an RN or as an EN.

For more information

- NMBA [registration standards](#)
- [Registered nurse standards for practice](#)
- [Enrolled nurse standards for practice](#)
- [Decision-making framework](#)
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (in Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)

Document control

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