



COAG Health Council

(meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council)

Post Office Box 344
RUNDLE MALL SA 5000
Telephone: 08 8226 6191
Facsimile: 08 8226 7244
Email: chcsecretariat@health.sa.gov.au

Dr Lynette Cusack RN
Chair
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
Email: tanya.vogt@ahpra.gov.au



Dear Dr Cusack

Approval of revised registration standard: endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives, as recommended by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

Thank you for your letter of 15 June 2015, recommending approval of the proposed revised *registration standard: endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives* (the revised registration standard) as submitted by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to Section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each State and Territory, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) decided on 22 October 2015, to approve the revised registration standard as recommended by the NMBA.

In agreeing to approve the revised standard, Ministers accepted the advice from the NMBA that having two separate registration standards and a 'two-step' process for midwives to access the Medicare Benefits Schedule (the MBS) and then the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (the PBS) was no longer needed as there are now four programs of study in prescribing approved by the board. We note that the NMBA intends to provide time for transition, will advise all midwives of the revised registration standard in advance of it taking effect, and that implementation will include publication of explanatory material.

In particular, Ministers acknowledged the NMBA's commitment that part of the implementation and transition to the approved registration standard would be to work with relevant jurisdictions to ensure that if there are any unintended consequences from changing the terminology 'eligible midwife' to 'midwife' that these are addressed before the approved standard takes effect. We note that, at this stage, the NMBA is proposing that the revised registration standard take effect on 1 January 2016.

If there are any issues raised by jurisdictions in relation to the change in terminology that have not been addressed by the proposed commencement date, Ministers request that the NMBA delay commencement, in keeping with the commitment given in your letter of submission. Ministers also invite the NMBA to advise if any unforeseen matters arise that may delay or

otherwise impact on the implementation of this approved standard.

The NMBA's commitment to reviewing the approved registration standard at least every five years or earlier if needed is welcomed by Health Ministers as good regulatory practice.

We trust that the AHWMC's approval of this revised registration standard will help support a smooth implementation.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Jack Snelling

Chair

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

30 October 2015

cc: Mr Martin Fletcher, CEO, AHPRA: martin.fletcher@ahpra.gov.au