

## Policy

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### Mothercraft nurses

Approved 24 August 2017

#### Who this policy applies to

This Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) policy applies to registrants or applicants previously known as mothercraft nurses.

#### Summary

The purpose of this policy is to:

- confirm there is no national register (the register) for mothercraft nurse under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (National Law)
- confirm there are no programs of study for mothercraft nursing
- provide clarity about enrolled nurses on the register with the notation *“May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing”* and *‘Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration’* against their registration
- provide clarity about the pathway to registration for applicants previously registered as mothercraft nurses prior to the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme); and
- clarify the pathway for people who hold a mothercraft nurse qualification but have never held registration.

#### Background

From 1 July 2010, with the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme), mothercraft nursing has not been a registration type on the NMBA register. All mothercraft nurses on the registers from NSW, VIC and TAS on 30 June 2010 transitioned to registration as an Enrolled Nurse (EN) with the notation *‘May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing’*. These nurses will also have a notation *‘Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration’* (see below for explanation).

**Nurses currently on the register as an EN with the notations *‘May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing’* and *‘Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration’*.**

An EN with the notations *‘May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing’* and *‘Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration’* must continue to meet all registration standards relevant to their context of practice in order to renew registration.

## Removal of notations

An EN with the notations '*May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing*' and '*Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration*' has **not** been educationally prepared as an EN. These nurses are **not** eligible for enrolment into NMBA-approved medicine administration units and would need to successfully complete an NMBA approved program of study leading to registration as an EN (a Diploma of Nursing, including the medication administration unit) to be eligible to have the notations removed.

A list of [NMBA approved programs of study](#) can be found here.

## People previously on the register as a mothercraft nurse.

People who have been previously registered as mothercraft nurses but have let their registration lapse (either before or after 1 July 2010) can apply to return to the register as an EN with the notation '*May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing*' and the notation '*Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration*'. However, these applicants must meet all the eligibility requirements for registration as set out in the NMBA mandatory registration standards including the [Recency of practice](#) and [Continuing professional development](#) registration standards.

## Re-entry pathways

An individual who was previously registered as a mothercraft nurse **or** as an EN with the notations '*May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing*' and '*Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration*', who does not satisfy the requirement for recency of practice may be directed to a NMBA-approved period of supervised practice.

As there are no re-entry to practice programs for mothercraft nursing an applicant who is not assessed as appropriate for supervised practice will need to undertake a NMBA approved program of study leading to initial registration as an EN.

## People who hold a qualification in mothercraft nursing but have never been registered.

People who have gained a qualification in mothercraft nursing but have never been registered (prior to or post 1 July 2010) are not eligible for registration under the National Law. These people would need to undertake a NMBA approved program of study leading to initial registration as an EN.

## Definitions

### **Enrolled Nurse with the notation “may only practice in the area of mothercraft nursing” and the notation ‘Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration’**

Refers to:

- A registrant who held registration as a mothercraft nurse and had their registration changed to registration as an Enrolled Nurse (EN) on 1 July 2010, with the notation '*May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing*' and the notation '*Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration*', or
- An individual who was previously registered as a mothercraft nurse or as an EN with the notations '*May only practise in the area of mothercraft nursing*' and the notation '*Does not hold a Board approved qualification in medication administration*' but let their registration lapse, and have returned to the register after consideration and approval by the NMBA.

## Review

The Board will review this Policy at least every five years, or as necessary.