

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
26 September 2013 in Darwin, Northern Territory

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the National Board or NMBA) is the national regulator for the nursing and midwifery professions in Australia. It is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory ([the National Law](#)).

The National Board meets monthly and considers a range of matters, the most important of which are published in this Communiqué.

In order to facilitate engagement with local stakeholders across states and territories, the National Board now holds its monthly meeting in a different state and territory every two to three months.

This helps the National Board to gain a better understanding of the jurisdictional matters relating to the regulation of nurses, midwives and students.

It also supports information sharing on the National Board's strategic priorities, projects and regulatory functions with local representatives from the professional and industrial organisations, education providers and employers, health department and members of the local state or territory board of the NMBA.

Appointment of Deputy Presiding Member

Following the National Board's temporary appointment of the Deputy Chair, Dr Lynette Cusack, as Presiding Member, the National Board has appointed Ms Mary Kirk as the Deputy Presiding Member effective from Friday 20 September 2013. Ms Kirk is the health practitioner member from the Australian Capital Territory.

These temporary appointments will remain in place until the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council determines the appointment of a new National Board Chair.

Midwifery

National Board holds midwifery workshop in Melbourne

The National Board hosted a midwifery workshop in Melbourne on 9 September 2013.

Attended by midwifery stakeholders from clinical practice, policy, workforce, education, professional and industrial bodies, the aim of the workshop was to improve and foster understanding of midwifery issues between the National Board, midwives and stakeholders.

Also present were members of the National Board and state and territory boards of the NMBA.

Topics included:

- midwifery accreditation and education
- midwifery practice, and
- workforce.

The National Board is currently analysing feedback received during the workshop and this will help inform the National Board's future strategic planning processes in relation to the regulation of midwives.

The National Board acknowledges the contribution by all participants at the workshop.

Nursing and Midwifery

National Board reduces application fees for new graduates seeking registration

The National Board has reduced the application fee for final-year students seeking registration as an enrolled nurse, registered nurse or midwife to \$20, saving new graduates \$140.

This fee reduction takes effect from 16 October 2013.

Any graduating student of a Board-approved program of study that leads to registration as a nurse or midwife (excluding a bridging program for an internationally qualified nurse or midwife) who has applied, or applies, for registration between 1 July 2013 and 16 October 2013 will get a refund.

Anyone who applied between 1 July 2013 and 16 October 2013 will automatically get \$140 refunded.

The reduced application fees for students helps support new entrants to the nursing and midwifery professions and recognises the burden of the initial period of registration for the majority of graduates.

Read the [media release on the fee reduction](#) on the National Board website.

Common registration standards for preliminary consultations

The National Board will soon be undertaking a preliminary consultation on the following registration standards:

- *Registration Standard: Continuing Professional Development for nurses*
- *Registration Standard: Continuing Professional Development for midwives*
- *Registration Standard: Recency of Practice, and*
- *Registration Standard: Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements*

Clause 38 of the [National Law](#) requires the National Board to develop and recommend for approval by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council registration standards about continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements.

Current registration standards are available on the [National Board website](#).

Preliminary consultation is to a targeted stakeholder group before public consultation, and it helps to road test the proposed content to help identify any operational impacts, issues or concerns prior to the document's release for public consultation.

Following analysis of the preliminary consultation feedback, a public consultation will be published under [Current consultations](#) on the National Board website

Instrument of delegations

The National Board has considered the annual review of delegations and issued a new Instrument of Delegations effective from 1 October 2013.

The purpose of the Instrument of Delegations is to further enhance the efficiency of the National Scheme in relation to regulating nurses and midwives in Australia by:

- clearly delegating certain administrative functions to AHPRA
- making it clear that the National Board will not endorse a nurse's or midwife's registration for acupuncture
- delegating to AHPRA the power to undertake investigations required under s.150(4) of the National Law, and
- delegating to AHPRA the power to administer the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 (Cth) within the timeframes imposed in this Act.

Approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

Midwifery

The National Board approved for five years the following midwifery program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as a midwife:

Education provider	Program	Campus
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University of Ballarat	Graduate Diploma of Midwifery	Ballarat, Vic
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Nursing

The National Board approved with major modification the following program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as an enrolled nurse:

<i>Education provider</i>	<i>Program</i>
TAFE NSW	Diploma of Nursing

The National Board approved conditions to be imposed for the following program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as an enrolled nurse:

<i>Education provider</i>	<i>Program</i>
TAFE NSW	Diploma of Nursing
Institute of Health and Nursing Australia	Diploma of Nursing

The National Board approved the removal of a condition for the following program of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration as a registered nurse::

<i>Education provider</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Amendment</i>
Edith Cowan University	Bachelor of Science (Nursing)/Bachelor of Science (Midwifery)	

The National Board approved the following to be moved into 'inactive' in the list of approved programs of study. (This program is no longer approved for new enrolments):

<i>Education provider</i>	<i>Program</i>
Central Gippsland Health Service	Return to Practice Program for Division 1 Nurses

For more detailed information please go to the [approved program of study lists](#) for nursing and midwifery on the National Board website.

Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse

Presiding Member, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

14 October 2013

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 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200