

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 14 September 2012 at the Melbourne Convention Centre, Victoria

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 discusses a range of issues, the most important of which are published in this Communiqué.

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting

The National Board's meeting coincided with the other 13 National Boards holding their meetings on 14 September 2012, prior to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) 2012 combined meeting. This annual meeting comprised a series of presentations and workshops designed to take stock, share ideas and innovations, identify future challenges and actions to continue making improvements to the implementation of the National Scheme.

The annual meeting provided an opportunity for National Board members to engage with regulatory colleagues from the Nursing Council and Midwifery Council of New Zealand, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC), the Nursing and Midwifery Council of New South Wales, as well as the AHPRA Agency Management Committee, AHPRA leadership teams, representatives of other New South Wales Councils, accreditation authorities and Health Workforce Australia.

National Board and Committee workplan sets direction

The National Board continues to implement its 2012/13 workplan which addresses policy issues/projects and initiatives for the nursing and midwifery professions, as well as some cross-professional initiatives being implemented in partnership with the other National Boards in the National Scheme.

These include:

- monitoring, research and evaluation of decisions that are being made across Australia to ensure consistency of regulatory decision making nationally
- continuing to work collaboratively with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) to enable the accreditation function to be undertaken in an efficient and effective manner and in accordance with the National Law
- undertaking a wide-ranging review of arrangements for the accreditation function for nursing and midwifery (see more information below)
- reviewing the National Board's registration standards by 1 July 2013. This includes a review of the registration standards for criminal history, recency of practice and continuing professional development, as well as for the notation as an eligible midwife and endorsement of an eligible midwife to prescribe scheduled medicines, and
- continuing to work closely, and build stronger relationships, with valued stakeholders through ongoing, consistent communications and by providing clear, concise information.

Welcome to the two new National Board members

The National Board welcomed its two new community members, Ms Allyson Warrington (Tasmania) and Mr Max Howard (Queensland), to their first National Board meeting.

Ms Warrington and Mr Howard were appointed to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia for a three-year term from 1 September 2012. These appointments replaced a community member, Ms Heather Sjoberg (Northern Territory), and an existing community member vacancy.

The remaining two community members, and seven out of the eight health practitioner members, were appointed for a further three-year term of office from 1 September 2012.

Ms Anne Copeland, the National Board Chair and Queensland health practitioner member, was appointed to the National Board for a further 12 months. Further information on each National Board member's profile is published on the [NMBA website](#).

Accredited programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

The National Board approved for five years the following programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration or endorsement:

- Flinders University- Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) (Sturt)
- Gold Coast Institute of TAFE- Diploma of Nursing (Southport and Greenslopes)
- Kings Unitech- Diploma of Nursing (Reedy Creek and Burleigh heads), and
- Your life and Learning- Diploma of Nursing (St.Albans, Adelaide).

The National Board approved the education provider name change for Advance TAFE (previously known as East Gippsland Institute of TAFE).

These program approvals have been published in the [approved program of study lists](#) of the National Board website.

Preliminary consultation: Data access and research policy

As part of a joint National Boards preliminary consultation, NMBA is releasing a revised version of its *National Registration and Accreditation Scheme – Data access and research policy* for a second round of preliminary consultation prior to public consultation planned to occur towards the end of the year.

The interim policy establishes a framework for managing requests to National Boards for data access/research. This interim policy was initially released for preliminary consultation in April 2012 and required substantive revision based on feedback, necessitating a second preliminary consultation to targeted stakeholders.

Once ready for consultation with the wider public, the National Board will consult on the interim policy publicly on its [website](#), welcoming feedback from nurses, midwives, members of the community and other key stakeholders.

Review of accreditation arrangements

The National Board has released the review of its accreditation arrangements for the nursing and midwifery professions for preliminary consultation to targeted stakeholders. The accreditation function was assigned to the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council at the beginning of the National Scheme.

This is part of a review being undertaken by all 10 National Boards that entered the National Scheme in 2010. The National Law requires the National Boards to review arrangements for the exercise of accreditation functions by June 2013. The review must include wide-ranging public consultation.

The preliminary consultation will run for three weeks from 19 September to 5 October 2012.

Following a review of received feedback, a public consultation – open to all interested parties - is scheduled to begin in October/November 2012.

Ms Anne Copeland

Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

26 September 2012

For more information

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- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact Us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)