

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 24 September in the AHPRA National office, Melbourne

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

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

NMBA welcomes new board members

The NMBA welcomed four new members commencing in September. The members have all been appointed for three years and are as follows:

- Ms Jennifer Wood - practitioner member from Western Australia
- Ms Annette Symes - practitioner member from New South Wales
- Mr Christopher Helms - practitioner member from the Australian Capital Territory
- Ms Nicoletta Ciffolilli - community member from Western Australia

Positive feedback from CLEAR conference

In September, NMBA member Ms Veronica Casey and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) CEO, Mr Martin Fletcher attended the Council on Licensure Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Educational Conference in Boston, USA.

The conference was attended by over 900 members of the regulatory community from across North America, Europe and Australia and New Zealand, who focussed four areas of inquiry:

- compliance and discipline,
- testing and examination issues,
- entry to practice and beyond, and
- administration, legislation and policy.

Mr Fletcher and Ms Casey presented on AHPRA and NMBA's work on risk-based regulation. Conference attendees showed great interest in the work of AHPRA as well as recognised the foundational work of the NMBA.

NMBA's new national health support service

The NMBA made the decision to fund a nationally consistent health support service for all registered nurses and midwives, and students enrolled in approved nursing and midwifery courses.

The national health support service will be run at arms length from the NMBA, and be designed to ensure that nurses and midwives can access support if they are impaired or at risk of impairment. In addition, the service will improve education and awareness among nurses and midwives about impairment, which will in turn reduce risk to the public.

In making its decision to fund the service, the NMBA considered an independent report informed by extensive consultation with stakeholders. The report was commissioned to:

- review the referral/notification, assessment, treatment, monitoring and rehabilitation for health practitioners with a health impairment (the management and support process), and
- the role the regulator may play in supporting national health support programs, giving consideration to the National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

The NMBA is now working with AHPRA to develop a detailed model to determine the core services and the level of funding required. More details on the open tender process to select an independent party to deliver the service will be published as decisions are made.

Nursing and midwifery prescribing: exploratory literature review

The NMBA approved the business case for an exploratory literature review on nursing and midwifery medication management including prescribing. Outcomes of the research will provide a comprehensive review to inform the NMBA in determining the appropriate educational and regulatory requirements for midwife and registered nurse prescribing in the future.

Call for expressions of interest for nominations for the Victorian Board of the NMBA

Applications are now sought from nurses and midwives for appointment to the Victorian Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia who reside and practice in Victoria to fill the following vacancies:

- Registered nurses
- Enrolled nurses
- Registered midwives

More information about the roles and the application process is available on the [NMBA website](#). Applications close Monday 12 October 2015.

NMBA's review of NRAS report recommendations

The NMBA reviewed the summary of recommendations and key issues identified from the final Report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS).

The purpose of the independent review was to identify what is working well in the National Scheme and the opportunities to improve and strengthen the operation of the scheme to regulate health professions to protect the public. Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally.

More information about the review and its recommendations can be found on [AHPRA's](#) website

Western Australia medicines review

The NMBA contributed to a joint response with other health practitioner boards to the WA Department of Health's Consultation Regulation Impact Statement about the proposed regulations for inclusion in the Medicines and Poisons Regulations, 2015.

NMBA approved programs of study leading to registration and or endorsement

In September the NMBA approved the following programs:

Full accreditation of nursing programs for five years:

Education provider	Program/s	Campus
Edith Cowan University	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)	Joondalup, WA

Major modifications of an accredited midwifery program:

Education provider	Program/s	Modification
University of South Australia	Bachelor of Midwifery	University of South Australia added an additional site at Mt Gambier

Moving the approved nursing programs of study from the NMBA Approved Programs of Study list into 'inactive'

Education Provider	Program	Details
Edith Cowan University	Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)	The above new program has been approved and the current program moved to the Inactive List.

Note: Education provider Navitas Health Skills Australia has changed its name to Health Skills Australia.

Dr Lynette Cusack, Registered Nurse
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
7 October 2015

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 9275 9009 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200