

## Media release

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9 November 2011

### WA nurses and midwives urged to renew registration on time, online

Nurses and midwives in Western Australia with registration due to expire on 31 December 2011 are being urged to renew on time and online.

About 6000 nurses and midwives in Western Australia (WA) are required to renew their registration by 31 December 2011 and will be given valid registration until 31 May 2012 when they must renew their registration again.

During 2011, renewal dates for nurses and midwives across Australia are being transitioned to the new national date of 31 May. As a result renewal periods may vary and registration fees will be adjusted accordingly to the pro-rata arrangements.

Nurses and midwives can check their registration renewal date and details on the National Registers for Nurses and Midwives at [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au).

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Chair Anne Copeland said the Board, with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), have been working closely with employers and member organisations to ensure that nurses and midwives were aware of the transition to the new national renewal date for the professions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

“In the National Scheme, individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The role of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia – with AHPRA – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible,” Ms Copeland said.

She advised that an important aspect of renewal of registration is for nurses and midwives to be aware of, and understand, the requirements of the Board’s registration standards when completing their renewal online. This information can be accessed via the Board’s website at [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Registration Standards](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/RegistrationStandards).

In alignment with the other nine boards under the National Scheme, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has reinstated a late payment fee for renewal of registration effective from 1 October 2011. It will apply to nurses and midwives who make an application to renew registration during the one month late period as outlined in the National Law. The late payment fee will be payable in addition to the annual renewal fee.

Ms Copeland reminded the professions there were significant consequences for individual nurses and midwives who do not renew on time in the National Scheme. Under the National Law, nurses and midwives who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Registers for Nurses and Midwives. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application is approved.

“Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear: renew on time and online,” Ms Copeland said.

There are some simple steps nurses and midwives can follow for easy and straightforward renewal of registration:

1. **Check your contact details** – make sure your contact details supplied to AHPRA, including email and mobile telephone, are correct and current. This will allow AHPRA to send you renewal reminders and to contact you easily.
2. **Check your registration expiry date** – practitioners can view their expiry date on the National Registers for Nurses and Midwives, accessible at [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au) and enter their last name and profession to search.
3. **Watch for the reminder to renew registration** – reminder emails and letters will be sent to each practitioner and are confirmation you can renew online.
4. **Review and understand the requirements of the Board’s Registration Standards** – practitioners can view the requirements of the Board’s Registration Standards at [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Registration Standards](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/RegistrationStandards) prior to completing the online renewal application.
5. **Renew online, on time** – the quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is online. Make sure you renew on time because under the National Law there is no option for AHPRA or the National Board to renew your registration after it has lapsed without a new application.

Nurses and midwives can check that their application has been received via the Board’s website at [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au). Practitioners whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

A nurse’s or midwife’s listing on the National Registers for Nurses and Midwives is evidence for employers that a practitioner is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed. Alternatively, nurses and midwives can print off a copy of their registration certificate using AHPRA’s online services accessible at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Online Services](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/OnlineServices).

#### **Failure to renew:**

Nurses and midwives who forget to renew their registration by 31 December 2011, or within the following one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. These practitioners should note that they are not able to practise in their profession until their fast-track registration application has been processed and approved.

#### *For more information*

- Visit [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au) for a FAQ on WA renewal of registration
- Follow the Board on Twitter: NurMidBoardAust
- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.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