

## Communiqué

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### Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 21 March 2013 in the AHPRA National office, Melbourne 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 considers a range of matters, the most important of which are published in this Communiqué.

#### [English language registration standard for all Boards preliminary consultation](#)

The National Board's *English language skills registration standard* is not due for review until September 2014. However, the National Board is participating in an all National Boards review of common, or largely common, registration standards which includes the *English language skills registration standard* and the *Criminal history registration standard*.

An all-boards preliminary consultation forms part of a three-year review of all National Boards' registration standards introduced with the National Scheme on 1 July 2010 (18 October 2010 in Western Australia). Registration standards, guidelines and codes are due for review at least every three years.

Preliminary consultation to targeted stakeholders provides the opportunity to road test the proposed content to help identify any operational impacts, issues or concerns prior the document's release for an extended period of public consultation to inform the review.

In participating in this all-boards review, the National Board will take advantage of any new evidence that may arise, and consider modifications to its *English language skills registration standard*. This will allow additional flexibility without compromising the protective purpose of the standard, consistent with best available evidence and the outcomes of the all-boards review.

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

#### [Explanatory note for health professionals](#)

The National Board has approved for publication an explanatory note for people working in a health profession other than nursing and/or midwifery who wish to hold the title registered nurse and/or enrolled nurse and/or midwife.

The explanatory note is targeting nurses and midwives applying to:

- renew their registration, or
- re-enter nursing and/or midwifery

The document also provides a useful information resource for employers of nurses and midwives, internal AHPRA staff and the wider community.

As an information resource, the explanatory note directs applicants for re-entry to nursing and/or midwifery to the following documents on the National Board website:

- [Re-entry to practice policy](#) under *Codes and guidelines*
- [Recency of practice FAQ](#), and
- CPD in relation to re-entry to practice:
  - [Continuing professional development FAQ for nurses and midwives](#)

- [Exemptions from continuing professional development - November 2012](#)
- [Principles for the assessment of nursing and midwifery applicants for re-entry to practice.](#)

The explanatory note will soon be published under *FAQ and fact sheets* on the [National Board website](#).

#### Major planning cycle for National Board 2013 – 15 strategic plan

The National Board is in the process of a major planning cycle for its new 2013- 2015 strategic plan for the period of 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2015.

The NMBA strategic plan 2013-15 is aligned with the National Scheme's objectives and guiding principles including protecting the public, facilitating workforce flexibility and mobility and provision of high quality and innovative education and training.

Key strategic priorities on professional practice framework, registration, notifications, accreditation, stakeholders, workforce agenda, finances and the health profession agreement, among others, provide the framework within which the strategic objectives are identified. Planning involves identifying and implementing the initiatives to meet these objectives over the life of the strategic plan.

#### International Council of Nurses 25th Quadrennial Congress 2013 update

The National Board is encouraging nurses to attend the International Council of Nurses (ICN) 25th Quadrennial Congress 2013.

The ICN 2013 congress is taking place at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 18–23 May 2013. National Board members, some state and territory board members of the NMBA and AHPRA representatives are attending the congress.

The Australian College of Nursing, formerly the Royal College of Nursing Australia and College of Nursing, is a member organisation of ICN and is assisting in hosting the congress in Melbourne this year.

Registrations are still open for the congress – visit the [ICN website](#) to learn more. You can go direct to the online [registrations page](#) to register.

#### 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:

- Australian Centre of Further Education, Return to Practice - Registered Nurse (Melbourne City)
- Australian Centre of Further Education, Initial Registration for Overseas Nurses - Registered Nurse (Melbourne City)
- Australian Centre of Further Education, Return to Practice - Enrolled Nurse (Melbourne City)
- Australian Centre of Further Education, Initial Registration of Overseas Nurses - Enrolled Nurse (Melbourne City)
- University of Western Sydney, Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry) - Registered Nurse (Richmond, NSW)
- Deakin University, Return to Practice - Registered Nurse (Burwood, Melbourne)
- Deakin University, Initial Registration of Overseas Nurses - Registered Nurse (Burwood, Melbourne)
- Monash University, Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery - Registered Nurse and Midwife (Frankston, Victoria)
- Barrier Reef Institute of Technical and Further Education, Diploma of Nursing (Townsville, Queensland).

The National Board approved major changes to the following programs of study:

- Swinburne University of Technology, Diploma of Nursing - Enrolled Nurse: Relocation of the site of delivery from Lilydale campus to Wantirna campus.

The National Board approved the following amendments to the list of approved programs of study:

- EQUALS International, Diploma of Nursing – Enrolled Nurse: Removal of a condition on accreditation of the Diploma of Nursing program offered by EQUALS International
- Institute of Health and Nursing Australia, IRON-RN: Removal of a condition on the Initial Registration for Overseas Nurses - Registered Nurse (IRON RN) program offered by the Institute of Health and Nursing Australia (IHNA)
- Kangan Institute, Diploma of Nursing - Enrolled Nurse: Removal of a condition on the Diploma of Nursing program offered by Kangan Institute
- YourLife Health and Learning Inc, Diploma of Nursing – Enrolled Nurse: Update to incorrect information regarding name of education provider. Changed from 'Your Life and Learning' to 'YourLife Health and Learning'.

The National Board approved the following to be moved into 'inactive' in the list of approved programs of study:

- Griffith University, Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner), no longer on offer
- University of Western Sydney, Bachelor of Nursing (Graduate Entry)
- Barrier Reef Institute of Technical and Further Education, Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled Nurse)
- Deakin University, Return to Practice – Registered Nurse
- Deakin University, Initial Registration of Overseas Nurses (Registered Nurse).

The National Board approved the following program prolongations:

- The College of Nursing, Contemporary nursing in Australia: orientation and assessment of competence as a registered nurse (Bridging) until 1 October 2013
- The College of Nursing, Contemporary nursing in Australia: orientation and assessment of competence as a registered nurse (Re-entry) until 1 October 2013
- Mercy Health Training Institute, Initial Registration Course for Division 1 Overseas Registered Nurses (Bridging) until 31 August 2014
- Mercy Health Training Institute, Return to Practice Program for Division 1 Registered Nurses (Re-entry) until 31 August 2014.

The National Board approved the following changes in unit codes, nominal hours or mode of delivery from the National Training package HLT51607 to National Training package HLT51612 for the following education providers:

- Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE
- Central Institute of Technology
- Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE
- Holmesglen
- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
- Challenger Institute of Technology.

For more detailed information please go the [approved program of study lists](#) of the National Board website.

**Ms Anne Copeland**

**Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia**

4 April 2013

**For more information**

- Keep up to date with regular news and updates on the National Board website [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)
- Visit [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://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