



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

29 APRIL 2010

The seventh meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia was held on the 29 April 2010 at the Hilton Hotel Airport, Melbourne, Victoria. This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the decisions of the Board, and of any progress since the meeting.

The Board continues to work very closely with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency to address the issues and concerns of stakeholders as we progress to commencement of the new national scheme on 1 July 2010. The Board acknowledges the amount of work that is required prior to implementation date and looks forward to the opportunity to review and further develop guidelines and processes after 1 July.

Transition Arrangements

Letters to Registrants

The Board noted that letters have been sent to all nurses and midwives in states and territories where the national law has been passed notifying them of the type of registration and other details.

The Board is aware that there have been errors with some nurses and midwives, and on behalf of AHPRA apologises for any confusion. Registrants are encouraged to return corrections to AHPRA on the forms provided.

AHPRA Registration Helpline

A call centre has been established to support registrants in the transition to the new national scheme. The Board will receive regular reports from AHPRA regarding issues such as the common enquires. These reports will be used to update the information available for registrants on the Board's website.

Registrants are advised to call 1300 088 590 with their queries if the information on the Board's website does not answer their question.

Nurse Practitioner Processes

The Board is working in conjunction with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing in progressing the development of an assessment framework to support the registration standards for the endorsement of nurse practitioners in future.

Nurse practitioners with a current endorsement are assured that they will transition into the new scheme on 1 July.



Certificates of Registration

The Board is working towards the development of a registration certificate and identified the need to adopt best practice in regards the risk of fraud associated with certificates.

Accreditation for Nursing and Midwifery

The Board noted the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has approved the assignment of the accreditation function to a reconstituted Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council. The Board will work closely with the ANMC through its restructure and in the implementation of the accreditation authority.

The Board also received notification that a decision by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council about the accreditation standards for nursing and midwifery is still pending.

Eligible Midwives

The Board has released a consultation paper on the draft guidelines on the education requirements for endorsement of eligible midwives. This is available on the website with submissions due in by COB Monday, 17th May 2010. The Board apologises for the tight timeframe, and can reassure midwives that key stakeholders including the Australian College of Midwives have been involved with developing this standard.

Codes and Guidelines

The Board considered the feedback from the consultation on a list of code and guidelines developed by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council. The Board recognizes that there will need to be review of some of these guidelines prior to and after the implementation of the national scheme. The Board will address the need for some of these guidelines once all states and territories are a part of the national scheme.

Conclusion

It is important to reiterate the message from the communiqué from the sixth meeting of the Board. There are an increasing number of decisions that the Board needs to make as 1 July 2010 approaches. The Board acknowledges that the transition to the national scheme involves potential risk. Individual nurses and midwives are encouraged to keep themselves informed of their obligations as registrants under the national scheme by checking the Board's website at regular intervals and by encouraging their colleagues to do the same.

The Board will be holding a planning day on 28 July 2010 to identify future priorities and actions. Information on the outcomes of the day will be communicated on the website. In addition, a communication strategy is currently being developed to ensure that we fully inform all stakeholders about the work of the NMBA.



Finally, the Board encourages individuals who are currently registered and who need to renew by 1 July 2010 to renew their registration early, preferably by 31 May 2010. This will assist the reduction of potential error in transferring information to the new AHPRA database.

Anne Copeland
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

25 May 2010