

## Media release

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18 May 2011

### Board calls on employers to support registration renewal campaign

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia today called on employers in the health sector to bulk check the registration renewal dates of employee nurses and midwives due to renew registration by 31 May 2011.

With two weeks to go until their renewal is due, 55 percent of the 200,000 nurses and midwives due to renew across all states and territories by 31 May 2011 have renewed their registration, allowing them to continue practising.

A further 65,000 Australian nurses and midwives are due to renew by 30 June 2011. The registration of both groups will be valid until 31 May 2012 with renewal then falling due each year by 31 May.

Board Chair Anne Copeland congratulated the more than 100,000 nurses and midwives across all states and territories who have heard the call to renew their registration on time. Most have also renewed online using their unique User ID supplied by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Employers in the public and private systems, including nursing agencies, can support the current renewal campaign by using AHPRA's online services to bulk check the registration status of employee nurses and midwives.

"While individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time – with only two weeks to go until the 31 May renewal date, we are asking employers to support the renewal campaign to avoid workforce impacts when individuals don't renew on time," Ms Copeland said.

"This means employers using the bulk-check service to determine which registrants are due to renew now, and reminding practitioners to check their due date. The message is simple - renew online and on time!" Ms Copeland said.

AHPRA advertised nationally in metropolitan newspapers on 14 May to remind practitioners to check when they are due to renew.

It has implemented an extensive communication campaign to remind practitioners to renew, including several direct emails (when addresses have been provided) and follow up letters to health practitioners in all states and territories due to renew registration by 31 May 2011.

Ms Copeland encouraged all nurses and midwives to provide AHPRA with their email address and to set their email accounts to receive communication from AHPRA and the Board.

"Setting an email account to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board avoids misdirection to an account junk box and ensures our messages are getting through," she said.

Ms Copeland reminded employers and practitioners that:

- The online register is the best and most reliable source of information about registration status. Listing on the Register is confirmation of registration status and individual certificates of registration are not required to prove a practitioner is registered. Nonetheless, AHPRA will send practitioners a certificate of registration status and pop-out wallet sized card 4-6 weeks after they have renewed
- Under the National Law, practitioners are automatically registered for one month after their registration expiry date. But if an individual does not renew within this one month 'late period' their name is removed from the Register and they are not able to practise until they have re-applied for registration
- Under the National Law, practitioners can continue to practise after their registration expiry date **if** AHPRA has received their renewal application. Practitioners can check their renewal application has been received [online](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Renewal-Received-Confirmation.aspx) at [www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Renewal-Received-Confirmation.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Renewal-Received-Confirmation.aspx). The listing on the National Registers of Nurses and Midwives is evidence for employers that a practitioner is registered, even if their registration expiry date has passed.

## Background

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

1. **Check your contact details** – make sure the contact details provided 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 of 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 notice to renew registration** – a notice to renew registration, including the unique contact number (User ID) supporting online renewal, will be mailed to each practitioner six to eight weeks before registration expires
4. **Use online services** for quick and easy renewal of registration – most practitioners can renew registration online using the unique contact number (User ID) provided on the registration renewal notice sent by AHPRA. Online renewal of registration usually takes between two and 48 hours, depending on the method of payment chosen by the practitioner and whether the application contains any adverse declarations.

## Renew online – Register on time

### For more information

- 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 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200