



Standing Council on Health
(meeting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council)

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Ms Ann Copeland
Chair
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Ms Copeland

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2013, seeking urgent out of session approval from the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council of a minor change to the approved *Eligible midwife registration standard*. We note that our original approval of this registration standard took effect at the start of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010.

I advise that pursuant to section 12 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act*, as in force in each State and Territory, the AHWMC decided on 26 July 2013 to approve the minor change to the approved registration standard, as requested by the Board.

Based on the Board's advice, we understand our approval will mean that the provision in the approved registration standard that enables a midwife to apply to become an "eligible midwife" and make a formal undertaking to complete, within a period of time determined by the board, an ANMAC-accredited and NMBA-approved program of study for prescribing medicines will continue to be available from 1 July 2010 to **30 June 2015**.

Ministers noted advice from the Board that it will start a review of this approved registration standard and associated documents in the coming months. In the meantime, we trust that our approval will support eligible midwives to continue to have access to the Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) to provide timely diagnostic tests for women, while being enrolled in and/or completing an approved program of study to prescribe scheduled medicines.

Yours sincerely

Michelle O'Byrne MP
Chair
Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

31/7/2013