

# Nurse – National Registration

## 2010

From 1 July 2010 practitioners of the Nursing and Midwifery professions across Australia will have to meet the same requirements to be registered, therefore registration will be recognised in all States and Territories. National registration focuses on the protection of the public, facilitation of workforce mobility, provision of education and training and access to health services.

Nurses and midwives are required to be familiar with the full standards and in particular, with how they apply to them. The full standards, fact sheets and frequently asked questions can be accessed at this web link.

[www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)

### Continuing professional development (CPD)

Registered Nurses are required to participate in at least **20 hours of CPD per year**. All nurses and midwives will be required to make a declaration that they have met the standard and have completed the necessary CPD when they apply for renewal of registration. The Board requires nurses and midwives to keep evidence of the CPD completed that may be subject to audit. The documentation of the self-directed CPD must include dates, a brief description of the outcomes and the number of hours spent in each activity.

### Recency of practice

Nurses and Midwives must have undertaken sufficient practice within **preceding 5 (five) years** to demonstrate competence in their profession. Refer to 'Definition Clause' overleaf.

Nurses and Midwives are required to keep evidence of their recency of practice. This evidence can consist of the following: a service statement from your employer(s); a pay slip(s); income statement for the year; and other methods at the discretion of NMBA.

A. Annual Renewal / Registration – Statement of Attainment of the above is inferred with renewals.

B. Re – Registrations, Board requires demonstrated evidence to suite; Refer Definition(s)

### Professional Indemnity Insurance

Registered nurses and midwives must not practice their professions unless they are covered in the conduct of their practice by appropriate professional indemnity insurance arrangements. The standard applies from 1 July 2010 to all registered nurses and midwives except students of nursing and midwifery; nurses and midwives who have non-practicing registration, or registered midwives who are exempted under the National Law. When applying for registration or renewal of registration, nurses or midwives will be required to declare that appropriate Professional Indemnity Insurance arrangements are in place.

### Criminal history

The Board has new powers to check the criminal history of registered nurses and midwives before deciding on an application for renewal of registration, or at any time during the registration period. The Board can do so by obtaining a written report from CrimTrac, a police commissioner or an entity in a jurisdiction outside Australia that keeps records about the criminal history of persons in that jurisdiction.

### English language skills

This standard applies to all applicants for registration. An applicant who is an internationally qualified applicant or an applicant who did not undertake and complete their secondary education to the requisite level required for entry into nursing or midwifery program, taught and assessed in English must provide evidence that they have the necessary English Language skills for registration. All applicants must demonstrate the following English language skills demonstrated by completion of the following tests; an IELTS examination (academic module) with a minimum score of 7 in each four components or an overall pass in the OET with grades A or B only in each of the four components. Test results must be obtained within two years prior to applying for registration and must be achieved within one sitting.



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**Notes:**

## Registration Types

The new nursing and midwifery registration types are:

- General registration
- Limited registration
- Non-practicing registration
- Student registration

**Definition Clause****Nurse - Sufficient practice to demonstrate competency – Requirements:**

This standard applies to nurses and midwives seeking registration, endorsement of registration or renewal of registration. It does not apply to recent graduates from nursing or midwifery programs in Australia applying for registration for the first time; persons holding student registration; or nurses or midwives holding non-practicing registration or applicants for non-practicing registration.

Nurses and midwives must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that they have undertaken sufficient practice, as defined in (2) below, in their professions within the preceding five years to maintain competence. This ranges from 3 months full time work to an assessed competence.

1. Nurses and midwives will fulfill the requirements relating to recency of practice if they can demonstrate **one**, or more of the following:

- a) practice in their profession within the past five years for a period equivalent to a minimum of three months full time
  - b) Successful completion of a program or assessment approved by the Board
- or
- c) Successful completion of a supervised practice experience approved by the Board.

2. Practice hours are recognised if evidence is provided to demonstrate:

- a) The nurse or midwife held a valid registration with a nursing or midwifery regulatory authority in the jurisdiction (either Australian or overseas) when the hours were worked, or
  - b) The role involved the application of nursing and/or midwifery knowledge and skills
- or
- c) The time was spent undertaking postgraduate education leading to an award or qualification that is relevant to the practice of nursing and/or midwifery.

3. Extended time away from practice due to illness or any type of leave will not be counted as practice.

**Practice** is defined as any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skill and knowledge as a nurse or midwife. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes working in a direct or indirect relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession and/ or use their professional skills.

Read more online - [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)