

4 May 2010

FAQs: Registration as a Nurse or Midwife

1. Are there one or more registers of nurses and midwives?

Under the national scheme, there is a register of nurses, and a separate register of midwives. On the register of nurses there are two divisions:

- Registered nurses (Division 1)
- Enrolled nurses (Division 2)

2. What endorsements are available in the new scheme for nurses and midwives?

There are a number of endorsements available for nurses and midwives in the new scheme. More detailed information is available on the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia website (www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au). A summary of these endorsements is as follows:

Scheduled medicines:

This endorsement identifies practitioners qualified to obtain, supply and administer schedule 2, 3,4 & 8 medicines for nursing practice in a rural and isolated practice area.

Eligible Midwives are also endorsed under this provision. See the relevant Registration Standard for further information.

Further detail in relation to specific medicines will depend upon the State and Territory legislation. Additional information will be available soon.

Nurse practitioner:

This endorsement is available to registered nurses (Division 1) based on experience in advanced nursing practice in a clinical leadership role in the area of practice in which the registrant practises as a nurse practitioner.

Midwife practitioner:

Any midwifery practitioner registered today will transition into the new scheme.

3. I am an enrolled nurse and currently have an endorsement or authority to administer medications. Why don't I have an endorsement in the new scheme?

In the new scheme, you have authority to administer medicine, unless there is a notation on your registration to say that you are not qualified to undertake this practice.

4. I currently have an endorsement for an area of practice. Will that appear on my registration in the new scheme?

If you currently have an endorsement for one of the following areas of practice, you will no longer have a specific endorsement in the new scheme:

- Maternal and child health nurse
- Sexual health nurse
- Psychiatric nurse
- Disability nurse
- Critical care nurse

There is no specific provision for these areas of practice to be recognised in the new scheme. However, you may continue to practise as you have before.

5. I currently have an endorsement or authority to administer immunisation medicines. Will I have an endorsement in the new scheme?

You will be able to continue to administer immunisation as you do now in accordance with relevant State and Territory legislation, but there is no specific endorsement for this purpose in the new scheme.

6. I note that there is a requirement for my principal place of practice to appear on the public register. Is this essential?

It is a requirement of the National Law that the suburb and postcode of the registrant's principal place of practice appear on the public register. The principal place of practice is defined as the address from which you predominantly practice the profession, or if not practising, or not practising predominantly from one address, then your home address.

For nurses and midwives practising through an agency, it can be the address of the agency.

There is power under the National Law for the National Board to not publish information if it believes the inclusion would present a serious risk to the health or safety of the practitioner.

A form is now available on the National Boards website to enable you to apply for information not to be included on the public register, if this is of significant concern to you.

7. I have conditions on my registration, but they have never before appeared on the public register. Is it essential they appear on the public register under the new scheme?

It is a requirement of the National Law that conditions appear on the public register. However, a National Board may decide in the case of a health or impairment condition that there is no overriding public interest in the condition appearing on the public register. Any registrant in this situation should simply write to the National Board to request that a health or impairment condition not be published on the national register.