

Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Assessment – National Boards

09 March 2023

Assessment purpose

The National Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Assessment¹ (the Assessment) explains the potential impact of a proposed registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of the public, vulnerable members of the community and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The four key components considered in the Assessment are:

1. The potential impact of the registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
2. The potential impact of the registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
3. Engagement with patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community about the proposal
4. Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about the proposal.

The National Boards' Health and Safety Impact Assessment aligns with the *National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Health and Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#), [National Scheme engagement strategy 2020-2025](#), [National-Scheme-Strategy 2020-2025](#)* and reflect key aspects of the revised consultation process in the [AManC Procedures for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines and accreditation standards](#).

¹ This assessment has been developed by Ahpra and the National Boards in accordance with section 25(c) and 35(c) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). Section 25(c) requires AHPRA to establish procedures for ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice. Section 35(c) assigns the National Boards functions to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the health profession including the development of registration standards for approval by the COAG Health Council and that provide guidance to health practitioners registered in the profession. Section 40 of the National Law requires National Boards to ensure that there is wide-ranging consultation during the development of a registration standard, code, or guideline.

Below is the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's assessment of the impact of the *Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives* on the health and safety of patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

1. How will the *Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives* impact on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community? What are the actions that have been taken to address or prevent this?

It is considered that the *Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives* will have a positive impact on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community. In a context of the current guidelines working effectively, the updates have sought to maintain the substantive components and only provide updates to ensure alignment to the best available evidence, best practice approaches and where appropriate, the feedback of the Australian community.

In line with our consultation process, the NMBA undertook wide-ranging consultation including with peak community and consumer groups. The NMBA consulted with a variety of stakeholders at preliminary and at public consultation, and promoted its proposal widely, including via its newsletter, website and through stakeholder networks.

The NMBA has carefully considered consultation feedback to identify any unintended impacts (including potential negative impacts) the *Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives* may have. We have fully considered and taken actions to address any potential negative impacts for patients and consumers. We will continue to engage with peak community and consumer groups, women and their families and privately practising midwives in order to get input and views from members of the community vulnerable to harm.

Submissions will be published on the NMBA's [Past consultations page](#).

2. How will this proposal impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? What are the actions that have been taken to address or prevent this?

The NMBA is committed to the National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#) which focuses on achieving patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the norm, and the inextricably linked elements of clinical and [cultural safety](#). As part of the consultation process, we have undertaken wide-ranging consultation and tried to find the best way to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in a meaningful way. We will continue to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and stakeholders in order to continue to get their input and views.

The NMBA has carefully considered any potential impact of the *Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives* on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and how the impact compared to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples might be different and believe the updates will positive impact both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples health and safety equally. Our engagement through consultation has further informed the *Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives* to help us to meet our responsibilities to protect patient safety and health care quality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Continuing to engage with relevant organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples will help us to identify any other future impacts.

3. How will the impact of the registration standard and the guidelines be actively monitored and evaluated?

Part of the NMBA's work in keeping the public safe is ensuring that all NMBA standards, codes and guidelines are regularly reviewed.

In keeping with this the NMBA will regularly review the *Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives* and the guidelines to ensure that it is working as intended.