



Update for International Nurses

14 September 2010

Board's role

The role of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) is to protect the public. It does this by setting direction for the regulation of nursing and midwifery in Australia. The State and Territory Boards of the NMBA make individual registration and notification decisions, supported by AHPRA staff.

Individuals should submit their applications to the State and Territory AHPRA office, where they are considered individually.

International qualifications assessment

The Board has set a clear, nationally consistent framework for assessing applications from internationally qualified nurses and midwives, in place from today. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency is now processing applications from internationally qualified nurses and midwives against this framework.

To ensure no applicant is disadvantaged, the Board has decided to recognise a transition period from 1 July 2010 to 13 September 2010. This spans the period between the start of Australia's national registration and accreditation scheme and the implementation on 14 September 2010 of the Board's new assessment framework.

Note: All applicants, regardless of when the application is received, must meet the national standards for proof of identity, English language and criminal history.

Applications received before 13 September 2010

For applications received and not processed before 13 September 2010, the Board will honour the assessment frameworks adopted by the previous State or Territory Nursing and Midwifery Registration Boards. Any qualification accepted by any one of these boards will be accepted by the NMBA in all Australian jurisdictions.

Applications received after 14 September 2010

Nurses and midwives qualified in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore who have a degree or a diploma and further education and who are registered as a first level nurse in these countries, are deemed to have the equivalent qualification as a practitioner qualified in Australia.

Specifically, this means nurses and midwives who have successfully completed a minimum

six semester (or equivalent) Bachelor degree or Associate degree (or higher) in general nursing at a university in one of these countries, who also has professional licensure as a registered (first level) nurse in the country of education, will be considered to meet the requirement for equivalence to an Australian degree completed at an Australian university.

Nurses and midwives from these countries who have a Diploma of Higher Education or Advanced Diploma at a university or equivalent institution, together with professional licensure as a registered nurse and further professional/post-graduate education, also meet the standard for registration as a registered nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

Nurses and midwives with only a diploma qualification from these countries will require assessment of their further education and/or work experience to determine if they are equivalent to an Australian qualified practitioner.

Nurses and midwives with qualifications from countries not listed above will require individual assessment to determine whether the qualification is equivalent and therefore will be recognised by the Board.

To be registered to practise, regardless of the country of qualification, all practitioners must meet the board's registration standards (about English language skills, recency of practice, professional indemnity insurance, criminal history checks and continuing professional development).