



## Midwifery practice

Registered nurses, midwives and enrolled nurses have successfully completed a program of study approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). They are required to work within the NMBA's Professional Practice Framework.<sup>1</sup>

### **It is the policy of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation that:**

1. Registered nurses, midwives, enrolled nurses and nurse practitioners must meet the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's Registration standards and Standards for practice.<sup>2</sup> These mandatory professional standards define the practice and behaviour of nurses and midwives.
2. Nurses and midwives practice in therapeutic and professional relationships with individuals or a defined population group to reach and/or maintain specified and attainable health goals. Practice is not restricted to the provision of clinical care.
3. Nursing and midwifery practice is based on person-centred and evidence based practice and involves physical, mental, social, cultural and spiritual care as well as supporting the individual's family and friends as required.
4. Nursing and midwifery practice is provided in a variety of settings in urban, regional, rural and remote locations in both the public and private sectors, including hospitals, health, aged and community health services, general practice clinics, schools, universities, the armed forces, statutory authorities, local government, prisons, offshore territories, industry and in the home.
5. Nurses and midwives understand the importance of and incorporate into all aspects of their practice, the principles of cultural safety and respect.
6. Nursing and midwifery practice encompasses: assessment of the care of individuals and groups as well as preventative strategies to promote, maintain and improve health through;
  - planning nursing and midwifery practice;
  - implementing and delegating nursing and midwifery practice in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the individual or group;
  - providing continuity of care;
  - evaluating nursing and midwifery practice outcomes and instituting further nursing or midwifery interventions as necessary;
  - implementing research methodologies to continually advance nursing and midwifery practices; and
  - the environment.
7. The nursing and midwifery professions contribute to the development of policy on issues such as: practice, professionalism, regulation, health and aged care, community services, veterans' affairs, education, training, workforce, socio-economic welfare, occupational health and safety, industrial relations, social justice, human rights, immigration and migration, foreign affairs and law reform.



ANMF Policy

8. Nursing or midwifery practice is undertaken by registered nurses, midwives, enrolled nurses and nurse practitioners, who are regulated under the National Law to practise as nurses and/or midwives. Assistants in nursing are delegated aspects of nursing care by registered nurses and provide that care under the direct or indirect supervision of registered nurses. Assistants in midwifery are delegated aspects of midwifery care by midwives and provide that care under the direct or indirect supervision of midwives.<sup>3</sup>

*Adopted by Federal Council September 1994*

*Reviewed November 1996*

*Reviewed and re-endorsed May 2005*

*Reviewed and re-endorsed November 2008*

*Reviewed and re-endorsed November 2011*

*Reviewed and re-endorsed August 2015*

*Reviewed and re-endorsed August 2018*

References

1. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Professional Practice Framework includes and is available at <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>
  - Standards for practice – registered nurse (2016), enrolled nurse (2016), midwife (2018) and nurse practitioner (2014)
  - Registration standards – recency of practice; continuing professional development; professional indemnity insurance arrangements; criminal history; English language skills; endorsement as a nurse practitioner; endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives; and endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses (rural and isolated practice)
  - Code of Conduct for nurses 2018
  - International Council of Nurses (ICN) Code of Ethics for nurses 2018
  - Code of Conduct for midwives 2018
  - International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Code of Ethics for midwives 2018
  - Decision making framework (DMF)
  - Guidelines for registration standards
2. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Registration Standards. Available at <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>
3. A National Framework for the Development of Decision-making Tools for Nursing and Midwifery Practice. September 2007. <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Codes-Guidelines.aspx#dmf>