



## Nurse Practitioners

The orienteering statements found in the NMBA's Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice provide a comprehensive overview of the role of nurse practitioner. In summary these statements recognise that nurse practitioners work in a variety of contexts, across diverse practice settings to deliver high level clinically focused nursing care. The scope of practice of the nurse practitioner builds upon registered nurse practice, enabling nurse practitioners to manage episodes of care, including wellness focussed care, as a primary provider of care in collaborative teams. As part of this care, nurse practitioners use advanced, comprehensive assessment techniques in the screening, diagnosis and treatment of client conditions by applying best available knowledge to evidenced-based practice. Nurse practitioners order and interpret diagnostic tests, prescribe therapeutic intervention including the prescription of medications, and independently refer clients to healthcare professionals for conditions that would benefit from integrated and collaborative care. They accomplish this by using skilful and empathetic communication with health care consumers and health care professionals. Nurse practitioners facilitate patient-centred care through the holistic and encompassing nature of nursing. Finally, nurse practitioners evaluate care provision to enhance safety and quality within healthcare. Although clinically focused, nurse practitioners are also expected to actively participate in research, education and leadership as applied to clinical care<sup>1</sup>.

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

1. Within the provision of universal health care, the nursing profession has the right to determine the nature and parameters of nursing care, to examine current practice and to explore new models of nursing care, thereby responding in a dynamic way to changing individual and community needs.
2. A Nurse Practitioner is a registered nurse whose registration has been endorsed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*<sup>2</sup> (National Law).
3. The title Nurse Practitioner is protected under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*, making it an offence for use of the title by anyone other than those authorised to do so by the legislation.
4. To be eligible for endorsement, an applicant must meet the NMBA Registration Standard for Nurses Practitioner Endorsement<sup>3</sup>.
5. The minimum educational preparation for Nurse Practitioners is an Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) approved Masters of Nurse Practitioner program.
6. Nurse Practitioners practice in metropolitan, rural and remote areas of Australia, in both the public and private sectors, and in all clinical areas.
7. The career pathway for Nurse Practitioners is part of the nursing clinical career structure.
8. The classification Nurse Practitioner is included in nursing awards and agreements at the highest level in the clinical career structure, linked to specific remuneration which recognises the advanced level of practice and the additional responsibilities.



9. Endorsement to practise as a Nurse Practitioner is vested in the national nursing and midwifery regulatory authority, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
10. Nurse Practitioner practice is supported by relevant legislation.
11. Access to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) by Nurse Practitioners is governed by the *Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Act 2010* which specifies that the participating nurse practitioner is required to have a collaborative arrangement<sup>4</sup>. Nurse practitioners wishing to access MBS and PBS are required to demonstrate collaborative arrangements, consistent with the *National Health (Collaborative Arrangements for Nurse Practitioners) Determination 2010*<sup>5</sup>.
12. Nurse Practitioners must have professional indemnity insurance cover<sup>5</sup>.

*endorsed june 1998*  
*reviewed and re-endorsed november 2004*  
*reviewed and re-endorsed december 2007*  
*reviewed and re-endorsed february 2011*  
*reviewed and re-endorsed june 2014*

#### References

1. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia *Endorsement as a nurse practitioner registration standard*  
<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>
2. *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (QLD)*.  
<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>
3. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia *Endorsement as a nurse practitioner registration standard*  
<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>
4. *Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Act 2010*. Available at  
<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2010A00029>
4. *National Health (Collaborative Arrangements for Nurse Practitioners) Determination 2010*. Available at  
<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2010L02107>
5. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia *Professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard*.  
<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>