



Nursing and midwifery research

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

1. Nursing and midwifery practice should be evidence based to contribute to the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of nursing and midwifery care for individuals, groups and communities using health and/or aged care services;
2. Quality improvement projects and accreditation processes, while not necessarily formalised research, contribute valuable evidence toward improving the quality of nursing and midwifery practice and should be encouraged;
3. Nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing must abide by the national statement on ethical conduct in research involving humans prepared by the National Health and Medical Research Council¹;
4. Nursing and midwifery researchers must adhere to the Code for the responsible conduct of research practice prepared by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Research Council and Universities Australia²;
5. Nursing/midwifery research focuses primarily on developing outcomes for knowledge about nursing/midwifery and nursing/midwifery practice, which includes care of persons in health and illness;
6. Nursing research may be directed toward:
 - understanding the fundamental mechanisms that affect the ability of individuals and families to maintain or enhance optimum function and minimise the negative effects of illness;
 - investigation of health promotion and illness prevention strategies which contribute to population health and well being in all geographical areas.
 - the outcomes of nursing interventions to ensure the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of nursing care;
 - the broader issues of health, illness, health services development and management, workforce, models of care, policy formulation and education;
7. Midwifery research may be directed toward:
 - understanding the mechanism that support women in pregnancy, during childbirth and early parenting within a wellness framework;
 - the outcomes of midwifery interventions to ensure the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of midwifery care in all geographical areas;
 - the broader issues of midwifery models of care, services development and management, workforce, policy formulation and education.
8. The nursing and midwifery professions should disseminate their research by publishing in professional national and international journals and presenting at professional forums;
9. Nursing and midwifery researchers should be acknowledged appropriately in any publications arising from collaborative research projects;



10. Support networks for nursing and midwifery researchers should be established in both the education and health and aged care settings;
11. Nursing and midwifery education, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, should assist in the development of research skills including the ability to critically evaluate research methodologies and findings and to implement reliable and relevant research outcomes into their nursing and midwifery practice;
12. Health and/or aged care services should encourage and promote nursing and midwifery research; and provide adequate and equitable resources including funding for such research;
13. Funding should also be made available through Governments and bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council to assist in the undertaking of nursing and midwifery research;
14. Nurses and midwives conducting research must adhere to relevant nursing and midwifery codes: the *Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in Australia*³, the *Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives in Australia*⁴, the *Code of Ethics for Nurses in Australia*⁵ and the *Code of Ethics for Midwives in Australia*⁶.

endorsed September 1994

reviewed and re-endorsed November 1996

reviewed and re-endorsed October 1998

reviewed and re-endorsed November 2005

reviewed and re-endorsed May 2009

reviewed and re-endorsed May 2012

reviewed and re-endorsed November 2015

References

1. National Health and Medical Research Council. *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 – Updated May 2015*. Available at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/e72>
2. National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Research Council and Universities Australia. 2007. *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*. Available at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/r39>
3. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) *Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in Australia*. 2008. Available at: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Codes-Guidelines.aspx#codeofethics>
4. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) *Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives in Australia*. 2008. Available at: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Codes-Guidelines.aspx#codeofethics>
5. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) *Code of Ethics for Nurses in Australia*. 2008. Available at: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Codes-Guidelines.aspx#codeofethics>
6. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) *Code of Ethics for Midwives in Australia*. 2008. Available at: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Codes-Guidelines.aspx#codeofethics>