



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. Nursing and midwifery research can be broad and wide-ranging, using a variety of methodologies and extending in scale from a small research project undertaken by a single researcher, to large international collaborations involving multiple organisations;
3. 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 and facilitated where possible;
4. Nursing and midwifery research must be a recognised and visible career pathway within all nursing and midwifery classification structures;
5. 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;
6. Nursing and midwifery researchers must adhere to the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018* prepared by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Research Council and Universities Australia²;
7. 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;
8. Nursing research may be directed toward:
 - 8.1 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;
 - 8.2 investigation of health promotion and illness prevention strategies which contribute to population health and wellbeing in all geographical areas.
 - 8.3 the outcomes of nursing interventions to ensure the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of nursing care;
 - 8.4 the broader issues of health, illness, health services development and management, workforce, models of care, policy formulation and education;
 - 8.5 innovation.
9. Midwifery research may be directed toward:
 - 9.1 understanding the mechanisms that support women in pregnancy, during childbirth and early parenting within a wellness framework;
 - 9.2 using a primary health care approach to investigation of public health strategies which contribute to maternal and infant health and wellbeing in all geographical areas;
 - 9.3 the outcomes of midwifery interventions to ensure the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of midwifery care in all geographical areas;
 - 9.4 the broader issues of midwifery models of care, services development and management, workforce, policy formulation and education;
 - 9.5 innovation.

*The term assistant in nursing also refers to care workers (however titled)



10. The nursing and midwifery professions should disseminate their research by publishing in professional national and international journals and presenting at professional forums;
11. Nursing and midwifery researchers should be acknowledged appropriately in any publications arising from collaborative research projects;
12. Support networks for nursing and midwifery researchers should be established in both the education and health and aged care settings;
13. 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 nursing and midwifery practice in order to grow research capability and capacity;
14. Commonwealth and state or territory governments, in conjunction with key nursing and midwifery stakeholder organisations and institutions, are encouraged to identify priority areas for nursing and midwifery research;
15. 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;
16. 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;
17. Nurses and midwives conducting research must adhere to relevant nursing and midwifery codes: the *NMBA Code of Conduct for Nurses*³, the *NMBA Code of Conduct for Midwives*⁴, the *ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses*⁵ and the *ICM Code of Ethics for Midwives*⁶.

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References

1. National Health and Medical Research Council. *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) - Updated 2018*. Available at: <https://nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018>
2. National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia. *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018*. Available at: <https://nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018>
3. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. *Code of Conduct for Nurses*. March 2018. Available at: <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards.aspx>
4. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. *Code of Conduct for Midwives*. March 2018. Available at: <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards.aspx>
5. International Council of Nurses. Revised 2012. *The ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses*. Available at: https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/inline-files/2012_ICN_Codeofethicsfornurses_%20eng.pdf
6. International Confederation of Midwives. 2014. *International Code of Ethics for Midwives*. Available at: <https://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/files/definitions-files/2018/06/eng-international-code-of-ethics-for-midwives.pdf>