



## Nursing and midwifery research position statement

### 1. Purpose

This position statement sets out key fields of research for nurses and midwives and the responsibilities the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) considers government, researchers and the profession should meet in conducting and supporting such research.

### 2. Definitions

In this position statement, **nursing and midwifery research** can be broad and wide-ranging; use a variety of methodologies; and extend in scale from a small research project led by a single researcher to large international collaborations involving multiple organisations.

### 3. Context

Research is integral to the evolution and implementation of evidence-based practice that advances the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of nursing and midwifery care. It must be a viable and visible career pathway within all nursing and midwifery classification structures.

### 4. Position

#### Research focus

It is the position of the ANMF that:

1. Nursing and midwifery research should be directed toward:
  - understanding the mechanisms that affect the ability of individuals and families to maintain or enhance optimum health and minimise the negative effects of illness
  - investigating primary healthcare promotion and illness prevention strategies that increase population health and wellbeing, including maternal and infant health, in all geographical areas
  - leading innovation and change to improve the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of nursing and midwifery care
  - identifying best practice in health service development and management; workforce planning and development; models of care; policy formulation and education
  - understanding how best to support women in pregnancy, during childbirth and through early parenting within a wellness framework
  - quality improvement projects and accreditation processes that contribute valuable evidence toward improving the quality of nursing and midwifery practice.

#### Government responsibilities

It is the position of the ANMF that governments should:

2. ensure that, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, nursing and midwifery education teaches students research skills, including the ability to:
  - critically evaluate research methodologies and findings
  - implement reliable and relevant research outcomes in nursing and midwifery practice
3. identify priority areas for nursing and midwifery research in collaboration with key nursing and midwifery stakeholder organisations and institutions



4. make sufficient funding available, including through bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council, to encourage and facilitate nursing and midwifery research
5. ensure health and aged care services encourage and promote nursing and midwifery research and allocate adequate funding for such research.

### Researchers' responsibilities

It is the position of the ANMF that:

6. Nurses and midwives must adhere to:
  - the *National statement on ethical conduct in human research*<sup>1</sup>
  - the *Australian code for the responsible conduct of research*<sup>2</sup>
  - the NMBA codes of conduct for nurses and midwives<sup>3,4</sup>
  - the ICN codes of ethics for nurses and midwives<sup>5,6</sup>
7. Nurses and midwives should promote their research by publishing in professional national and international journals and presenting at professional forums.

### Professions' responsibilities

It is the position of the ANMF that the nursing and midwifery professions should:

8. establish support networks for nursing and midwifery researchers in education, health and aged care settings
9. appropriately acknowledge nursing and midwifery researchers in any publications arising from collaborative research projects.

## 5. Position statement management

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<sup>1</sup> National Health and Medical Research Council. 2018. *National statement on ethical conduct in human research (2007)*. Available at: <https://nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018>

<sup>2</sup> National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia. 2018. *Australian code for the responsible conduct of research*. Available at: <https://nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018>.

<sup>3</sup> Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2018. *Code of conduct for nurses*. Available at: <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2018. *Code of conduct for midwives*. Available at: <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards.aspx>.

<sup>5</sup> International Council of Nurses. 2012. *The ICN code of ethics for nurses*. Available at: [The ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses | ICN - International Council of Nurses](#).

<sup>6</sup> 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>.