



**June 2009  
Update**

---

## **PROJECTS**

### ***National Standards for the Assessment of Internationally Qualified Nurses and Midwives for Registration and Migration***

Standard 2 of the new national standards will be introduced nationally on 1 July 2009. That is all internationally-qualified nurses / midwives applying either for registration or migration to Australia will have to provide an English proficiency test to either the ANMC or the NMRA. As of 1 July the IELTS test pass level will increase to 7 in all four bands. A pass in both the OET and IELTS will only be accepted in the one sitting.

Standards 1 and 3-5 will be introduced nationally towards the end of 2009.

### ***ANMC National Guidelines on Boundaries of Professional Practice for Nurses and Midwives***

This project is now in its second phase, following the appointment of Ms Amanda Adrian as the consultant, and is close to completion. The focus of this stage of the Professional Boundaries project is to build on the extensive work and consultation previously undertaken through further development of the Guidelines to harmonise with the Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct for nurses and midwives launched in August 2008.

In line with the Codes, there will be separate national guidelines for nurses and for midwives. There will also be a background document with case studies for those requiring more information and resources e.g. educators. It is anticipated that the draft national guidelines on boundaries in professional relationships for nurses and midwives will be available in August 2009.

### ***National Framework for the Demonstration of Continuing Competence for Nurses and Midwives.***

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council is pleased to announce the completion of its project to develop a national framework for the demonstration of continuing competence for nurses and midwives (The Continuing Competence Framework). The Framework was endorsed at its last Board and can be downloaded from the ANMC website at [www.anmc.org.au](http://www.anmc.org.au). Whilst the legislation in some states and territories

prevents the Framework currently being adopted in those jurisdictions it is hoped that the Framework will be adopted with the commencement of national regulation in 2010.

### ***Standards and criteria for the accreditation of nursing and midwifery courses leading to registration, enrolment, endorsement and authorisation in Australia***

The project to develop Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses Leading to Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia has been undertaken in three stages:

- Stage 1 – (2003 – 2006) – Consultations, literature review, development of discussion paper leading to development of principles in relation to the accreditation of courses
- Stage 2 – (2006-2007) the development of the *National Framework for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses leading to Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia*.
- Stage 3 – (2007-2009) – the develop standards and criteria for the National Accreditation Framework *for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses leading to Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia*.

Stage 3 of this project is now completed and the Framework and the following four standards and criteria have been approved by the ANMC Board:

- Registered nurses;
- Enrolled nurses;
- Midwives; and
- Nurse Practitioners.
- National ANMC Accreditation Framework 2007 with revised changes 2009

The Framework and four standards and criteria are available to download from the ANMC website.

### ***Implementation of the ANMC Decision Making Framework***

The Decision Making Framework has been well received by nurses and midwives across the jurisdictions of the ACT, NT and NSW where forums and workshops were recently held and has been adopted by the NMRA's in those jurisdictions.

ANMC staff have also taken the opportunity to discuss the DMF at a number of other nursing and midwifery forums nationally.

In total 7 workshops and Information sessions have been held across ACT, NSW and NT. There are two remaining workshops remaining to be held in the ACT. The workshops and information sessions were very well attended and attendees were generally very pleased with the format and content.

The Facilitation Manual in hardcopy and CD format will shortly be available for educators. The framework itself is available in CD format by contacting the ANMC or by downloading from the website.

## **ANMC POSITION STATEMENTS AND GUIDELINES**

ANMC position statements provide the nursing and midwifery professions with a national regulatory perspective which may assist the development of nursing, midwifery and health care policy. ANMC guidelines are part of the professional practice framework which provides assistance to nurses and midwives in relation to their practice obligations.

The position statements and guidelines are available at:

[http://www.anmc.org.au/position\\_statements\\_guidelines/position\\_statements.php](http://www.anmc.org.au/position_statements_guidelines/position_statements.php)

Existing position statements and guidelines are regularly reviewed and revised. New position statements and guidelines undergo a considered consultation process.

Keep watching the ANMC website!

## **OTHER ITEMS/ISSUES**

### **National regulation**

On 26 March the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) signed the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions. The meeting communiqué and the IGA are both available on the COAG website <http://www.coag.gov.au>

The ANMC supports a national regulatory scheme for nursing and midwifery based on the scheme maintaining the highest standards of nursing and midwifery care to the Australian community. The ANMC has significant concerns about certain aspects of the scheme; primarily that the National Board for Nursing and Midwifery will not have access to appropriate human and financial resources to allow it to regulate properly and that this will have a negative impact on standards. The ANMC is committed to taking the time necessary to ensure that the scheme developed is implemented carefully, thoughtfully and transparently.

Further information including copies of all ANMC and APNMF submissions is available on the Health Workforce website <http://www.nhwt.gov.au/natreg.asp>

### **WEBSITE**

For further information about the work of the ANMC or to download copies of ANMC documents please visit our website at [www.anmc.org.au](http://www.anmc.org.au).

**POSTERS**

The ANMC is currently selling posters of the revised Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses and the new Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives. Cost is \$15 per set. Posters can be ordered by contacting the ANMC on 02 6257 7960 or via the ANMC website.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Hard copies of ANMC publications have almost sold out. Please check the ANMC website for information about availability. Most publications can also be downloaded free of charge for individual use, from the ANMC website. Multiple copies may be subject to copyright restrictions. Please check with the ANMC Business Manager, Kay Posthuma 02 6274 9106 for more information.