



anf position
statement

australian nursing federation

nursing and midwifery in general practice

The Australian Nursing Federation supports the employment of nurses and midwives in general practice as an important area for the provision of primary health care.

The employment of nurses and midwives in general practice will:

1. enhance the range of services available to people attending a particular general practice;
2. contribute positively through collaborative care to health outcomes for people attending a particular general practice;
3. incorporate the diverse scope of practice of nurses and midwives into the general practice environment;
4. provide clinical and collegial support to health professionals in the general practice setting; and
5. provide another career path choice for nurses and midwives.

It is the position of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. All nurses and midwives employed as such in general practice must be registered for practice with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
2. All nurses and midwives employed in general practice must have a clear role description with a scope of practice that is appropriate to their educational preparation consistent with national and jurisdictional legislative frameworks.
3. Enrolled nurses employed within general practice must have clear and appropriate supervisory arrangements in place with a registered nurse. Enrolled nurses work under the direction and supervision of registered nurses. That supervision may be direct or indirect.¹
4. Evidence based policies and protocols must be developed which give direction to the nurse or midwife, establish the boundaries and expectations of their role and are applied using their professional judgement.
5. Nurses and midwives employed in general practice, as in any other area of nursing or midwifery, will bring to their employment a range of skills and knowledge. The scope of practice of the nurse or midwife can be enhanced and/or expanded through further education. The employer has a responsibility to ensure that nurses and midwives within their employ are provided with appropriate education and staff development opportunities in order to build capacity and function safely and effectively

6. Nurses and midwives must be employed according to the appropriate industrial instrument applicable in the states and territories in which they are working, at a level commensurate with their qualifications and scope of practice.
7. The employment of nurses and midwives in general practice should accommodate practice from beginner to expert and provide a career path, appropriately recognised and remunerated.
8. Nursing and midwifery care provided in general practice that attracts a rebate within a particular Medicare Item number should be reimbursed at a level that reflects the skill and knowledge of nurses and midwives.
9. Mechanisms should be in place to facilitate contact between the nurse or midwife in general practice and other nurses and midwives working in similar or other roles in the local area to provide professional support; exchange information and ideas; and facilitate involvement in ongoing professional development activities.

endorsed 2001

reviewed and re-endorsed february 2005

reviewed and re-endorsed may 2008

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References

1. Direct supervision: the registered nurse or registered midwife is actually present, personally observes, works with, guides and directs the person who is being supervised.

Indirect supervision: the registered nurse or registered midwife works in the same facility or organisation as the supervised person, but does not constantly observe their activities. The supervisor must be available for reasonable access. What is reasonable will depend on the context, the needs of the consumer and the needs of the person who is being supervised.