



nurse practitioners

It is the policy of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. Within the universal provision of health care, the nursing profession has the right to determine the nature and parameters of nursing care, to examine current practice and to explore new models of nursing care, thereby responding in a dynamic way to changing individual and community needs.
2. A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse whose registration has been endorsed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*.¹
3. To be eligible for endorsement, an applicant must be able to demonstrate experience in advanced nursing practice in a clinical leadership role in the area of practice in which he or she intends to practice as a nurse practitioner, within the five-year period preceding the application.² (The endorsement process should ensure that the registered nurse applying for endorsement has undertaken appropriate postgraduate education or equivalent to support their practice and provided evidence of their ability to consistently practise autonomously and at an advanced level).³
4. Nurse practitioners work in collaboration with other health care providers, such as other nurses and midwives, doctors, and allied health professionals as well as with governments, service providers and consumers. Collaboration and cooperation is essential for optimal health outcomes.
5. The role of the nurse practitioner is characterised by clinical assessment and therapeutic management of health and illness presentations within their scope of practice. This may include the initiation of diagnostic investigations, the prescription of medicines, and referral to other health care providers.
6. Nurse practitioners practice in metropolitan, rural and remote areas of Australia, in both the public and private sectors, and in all clinical areas.
7. The minimum educational level for nurse practitioners is preparation at Masters level or equivalent for the clinical area of practice, supported by relevant clinical experience.
8. The career structure for nurse practitioners is part of the nursing clinical career stream.
9. The classification of nurse practitioner is included in nursing awards and agreements at the highest level in the clinical career stream, linked to specific remuneration which recognises the advanced level of practice and the additional responsibilities.

10. The title of nurse practitioner is protected in the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*, making it an offence for use of the title by any other than those authorised to do so by the legislation.
11. Endorsement to practise as a nurse practitioner is vested in the national nursing and midwifery regulatory authority, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
12. Nurse practitioner practice is supported by relevant legislation.
13. Access to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) by nurse practitioners is governed by the Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Act 2010 which specifies that the participating nurse practitioner is required to have a collaborative arrangement/s of a kind or kinds specified in the regulations [determination], with one or more medical practitioners of a kind or kinds specified in the regulations [determination].⁴ Nurse practitioners wishing to access MBS and PBS are therefore required to demonstrate collaborative arrangements, consistent with the National Health (Collaborative Arrangements for Nurse Practitioners) Determination 20105, are in place.
14. Nurse practitioners have adequate professional indemnity cover appropriate to their area of practice.

endorsed june 1998

reviewed and re-endorsed november 2004

reviewed and re-endorsed december 2007

reviewed and re-endorsed february 2011

References

- 1 *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (QLD). Available at: <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/H/HealthPracRNA09.pdf>
- 2 Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
Nursing and Midwifery Endorsement nurse practitioners Registration Standard
- 3 See ANMC Competency Standards for the Nurse Practitioner:
http://www.anmc.org.au/docs/competency_standards_for_the_nurse_practitioner.pdf.
- 4 *Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) Act 2010*. Available at: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2010A00029>
- 5 *National Health (Collaborative Arrangements for Nurse Practitioners) Determination 2010*. Available at: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2010L02107>