



anf policy

australian nursing federation

nursing and midwifery care

It is the policy of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. Nursing and midwifery practice assists an individual or a defined population group to reach and/or maintain specified and attainable health goals.
2. Nursing and midwifery care is based on holistic care principles and involves physical, mental, social, cultural and spiritual care as well as supporting the person's family and friends as required.
3. Nursing and midwifery practice is provided in a variety of settings in urban, rural and remote locations in both the public and private sectors, including hospitals, health and community services, schools, universities, the armed forces, statutory authorities, local government, prisons, offshore territories and industry.
4. Nursing and midwifery practice encompasses: assessment of care of individuals and groups as well as preventative strategies to promote and maintain well health through;
 - planning nursing and midwifery care;
 - implementing and delegating nursing and midwifery care in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the individual or group;
 - evaluating nursing and midwifery practice outcomes and instituting further nursing or midwifery interventions as necessary; and
 - implementing research methodologies to continually advance nursing practices.
5. Not all persons with a direct or implied obligation or responsibility for caring for individuals or groups are necessarily engaged in nursing or midwifery. For example care by an unpaid carer or relative in the home environment is not considered to be nursing.
6. Nursing and midwifery practice is undertaken by midwives, registered nurses, enrolled nurses¹ and nurse practitioners, who are licensed to practise as nurses and midwives. Assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) are delegated aspects of nursing care by registered nurses and provide that care under the direct or indirect supervision of registered nurses.^{2,3}
7. Persons practising nursing or midwifery should possess appropriate qualifications and education. Registered and enrolled nurses and midwives comply with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council's National Competency Standards for the registered nurse, midwife, the enrolled nurse and the nurse practitioner and should be provided with the necessary measures to ensure they can continue to comply with these standards.

adopted by federal council september 1994

reviewed november 1996

reviewed and re-endorsed may 2005

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1 Registered nurse (Division 2) in Victoria.

2 Enrolled nurses in NSW can delegate aspects of nursing care to assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled).

3 See the ANF/RCNA joint position statement on *Assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled)*; the ANF position statements on *Assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled) providing aspects of care* and *The employment of undergraduate students of nursing*; and ANF guidelines on *Delegation by registered nurses*.