



## 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 individual'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, industry and in the home.
4. Nursing and midwifery practice encompasses: assessment of the care of individuals and groups as well as preventative strategies to promote and maintain 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;
  - implementing research methodologies to continually advance nursing practices; and
  - healthy environment.

The nursing and midwifery professions contribute to the development of policy on issues such as: practice, professionalism, regulation, health and aged care, community services, veterans' affairs, education, training, workforce, socio-economic welfare, occupational health and safety, industrial relations, social justice, human rights, immigration and migration, foreign affairs and law reform.

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 nurses and nurse practitioners, who are licensed to practise as nurses and midwives. Assistants in nursing are delegated aspects of nursing care by registered nurses and provide that care under the direct or indirect supervision of registered nurses. Assistants in midwifery are delegated aspects of midwifery care by midwives and provide that care under the direct or indirect supervision of midwives.<sup>1</sup>

7. Individual's practising nursing or midwifery should undertake relevant education and possess appropriate qualifications. Registered and enrolled nurses and midwives comply with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council's National Competency Standards<sup>2</sup> 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*

*reviewed and re-endorsed november 2008*

*reviewed and re-endorsed november 2011*

#### references

1. ANF/RCNA joint position statement on assistants in nursing and other unlicensed workers (however titled);  
ANF position statement on assistants in nursing or midwifery and other unlicensed workers (however titled) providing aspects of nursing or midwifery care;  
ANF guidelines on delegation by registered nurses and midwives;  
ANF guideline on employment of undergraduate students of nursing and midwifery.
2. The ANMC National Competency Standards for the Registered Nurse, Enrolled Nurse, Midwife and Nurse Practitioner as adopted by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) July 2010.