



REFRESHER PROGRAMS FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Due to the expected surge in demand resulting from COVID-19, the Australian Government have funded the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) to provide online refresher programs. These 36 hour online programs are enabling registered and enrolled nurses who want to return to clinical practice, or work in a more acute setting to quickly and efficiently update their skills and knowledge.

While refresher programs were previously available from a wide number of providers, including the ANMF, universities, health care networks, and state and territory governments, many of these have been suspended during the pandemic. However, the ANMF Victorian Branch is still offering a small number of free face-to-face refresher programs for registered nurses; information can be found [here](#).

The ANMF recommends that nurses and midwives who have been added to the Pandemic Response Sub-Register consider undertaking a refresher program if they plan to return to practice.

Refresher programs are different from re-entry programs, and are not designed for nurses and midwives who are no longer registered, or who do not meet the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (NMBA's) recency of practice requirement.

To be eligible for a funded ACN refresher program, participants must:

- Be currently registered with the NMBA as a registered or enrolled nurse;
- Have been working in a non-clinical or non-acute health setting;
- Meet the NMBA recency of practice requirement of at least 450 hours in the last five years; and
- Be prepared to work in an Australian public or private hospital that has been contracted by a state or territory, or the Australian Government to provide COVID-19 related healthcare services.

Note:

- The funded positions for the ACN refresher programs are fully subscribed; this fact sheet will be updated in the event that funding is provided for additional places.
- ACN also offers a fee-paying option for registered and enrolled nurses.
- The Australian Government has not allocated funding for midwifery refresher programs; the Australian College of Midwives offers a fee-paying refresher program for midwives.