



Nursing practice

Registered nurses, enrolled nurses and nurse practitioners have successfully completed a program of study approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). Nurses are required to work within the NMBA's professional practice framework, which includes registration standards, professional standards for practice, codes, guidelines and frameworks.^{1,2}

It is the policy of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation that:

1. Nursing practice is undertaken by registered nurses, enrolled nurses and nurse practitioners, who are regulated under the *Health Practitioner National Law Act 2009* to practise as nurses.³
2. Nurses must meet the NMBA Registration standards and the relevant standards for practice.^{4,5,6} These mandatory professional standards define the practice and conduct of nurses.
3. Nurses practice in therapeutic and professional relationships with individuals or a defined population group to reach and/or maintain specified and attainable health goals. Practice is not restricted to the provision of clinical care.
4. Nursing practice is based on person-centred and evidence-based practice and involves physical, mental, social, cultural and spiritual care as well as supporting the individual's carers, family and friends as required.
4. Nursing practice is provided in a variety of settings in urban, regional, rural and remote locations in both the public and private sectors, including hospitals, health, aged and community health services, general practice clinics, schools, universities, the armed forces, statutory authorities, local government, prisons, offshore territories, industry and in the home.
5. Nurses must understand the importance of, and incorporate into all aspects of their practice, the principles of cultural safety and respect.
6. Nursing practice encompasses assessment of the care of individuals and groups as well as preventive strategies to promote, maintain and improve health through:
 - a) planning nursing practice;
 - b) implementing and delegating nursing practice in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the individual or group;
 - c) providing continuity of care;
 - d) evaluating nursing practice outcomes and instituting further nursing interventions as necessary;
 - e) support people to be active participants in their health and achieve their health goals;
 - f) implementing research methodologies to continually advance nursing practices; and
 - g) care for the environment.
7. The nursing professions contributes 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.



ANMF Policy

8. 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. Support and supervision to assistants in nursing may be provided by an enrolled nurse to ensure care is provided as outlined in the plan of care and according to health facility policies, protocols and guidelines, if this is deemed appropriate by the delegating registered nurse.⁷

*The term assistant in nursing also refers to care workers (however titled)

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Reviewed and re-endorsed August 2018
Reviewed and re-endorsed August 2021*

References

1. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (2021). Registration standards. Available at <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>
2. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (2021). Professional codes and guidelines. Available at <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements.aspx>
3. *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*. Available at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2009-045>
4. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (2016). Registered nurse standards for practice. Melbourne: NMBA. Available at <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards/registered-nurse-standards-for-practice.aspx>
5. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (2021). Nurse practitioner standards for practice. Melbourne: NMBA. Available at <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards/nurse-practitioner-standards-of-practice.aspx>
6. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (2016). Enrolled nurse standards for practice. Melbourne: NMBA. Available at <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards/enrolled-nurse-standards-for-practice.aspx>
7. Ibid.