



## Midwifery practice

Midwives have successfully completed a program of study approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). Following postgraduate experience and approved postgraduate education, midwives may be eligible to apply for endorsement for scheduled medicines. Midwives are required to practice within the NMBA's professional practice framework, which includes registration standards, professional standards for practice, codes, guidelines and frameworks.<sup>1,2</sup>

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

1. Midwives must meet the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's Registration standards and Midwife standards for practice.<sup>3</sup> These mandatory professional standards define the practice and conduct of midwives.
2. Midwives practice in therapeutic and professional relationships with women and their families and the broader health system to promote health and wellbeing during pregnancy, birth, the postnatal period and transition to parenting. Practice is not restricted to the provision of clinical care.
3. Midwifery practice is based on person-centred and evidence-based practice and involves physical, mental, social, cultural and spiritual care as well as supporting the person's family and friends as required.
4. Midwifery 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, community health services, general practice clinics, universities, the armed forces, statutory authorities, local government, prisons, offshore territories, industry and in the home.
5. Midwives understand the importance of, and incorporate into all aspects of their practice, the principles of cultural safety and respect.
6. Midwifery practice encompasses care of women and their families during pregnancy, birth, and the postnatal period, as well as care of the newborn. Midwives promote, maintain and improve health through:
  - working in partnership with women and their families;
  - planning midwifery care;
  - implementing and delegating midwifery practice in order to achieve the best possible outcome for the women and their families;
  - providing continuity of care;
  - evaluating midwifery care outcomes and instituting further midwifery interventions as necessary;
  - advocating for and on behalf of women and their families to be active participants in their care and achieve their health goals;
  - implementing research methodologies to continually advance midwifery practices; and
  - care for the environment.



#### ANMF Policy

7. The midwifery professions contributes to the development of policy on issues such as: practice, professionalism, regulation, health care, community services, veterans' affairs, education, training, workforce, socio-economic welfare, work health and safety, industrial relations, social justice, human rights, immigration and migration, foreign affairs and law reform.
8. Midwifery practice is undertaken by midwives, who are regulated under the *Health Practitioner National Law Act 2009* to practise as. In some states and territories, assistants in midwifery, who are undergraduate midwifery students, are delegated aspects of midwifery care by midwives and provide that care under the direct or indirect supervision of midwives.<sup>3</sup>

*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*  
*Reviewed and re-endorsed August 2015*  
*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 <https://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. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (2018). Midwife standards for practice. Melbourne: NMBA. Available at <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Professional-standards/Midwife-standards-for-practice.aspx>