

HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY	
TITLE: Entitlement to Registration / Enrolment / Authorisation Policy	
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 2004	LAST DATE REVIEWED: February 2007, September 2008, February 2009, July 2009
BOARD: Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory	

Purpose

This policy has been developed to provide clear direction to staff of the Health Professions Licensing Authority, members of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory and intending registrants regarding the entitlement to register/enrol as a nurse or gain registration or authorisation as a midwife in the Northern Territory.

Related Documents

Information Guide for Nurses and Midwives Returning to Practice

Information Guide for Internationally Qualified Nurses

English Language Competence Policy

Identification Verification Policy

All documents available at www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards

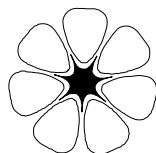
The Legislation

The *Health Practitioners Act 2004* (the Act) provides for the registration and enrolment of persons practising health care in the Northern Territory. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory (the Board) is established under the Act and has a number of functions, including the administration of registration and enrolment of nurses and midwives. It is the role of the Board to make a determination on the applicant's entitlement to registration under section 22 of the Act. Registration or enrolment as a nurse or midwife in the Northern Territory depends on the applicant's being able to provide the Board with evidence of their ability to meet all of the requirements of section 22 of the Act.

Section 22 of the *Health Practitioners Act 2004*

Entitlement to Registration or Enrolment

- (1) *An applicant is entitled to be registered or enrolled in the category of registration or enrolment to which the application relates if the relevant Board is satisfied that the applicant –*
- (a) *is eligible to apply for the category of registration or enrolment;*
 - (b) *is competent to practise in the category;*
 - (c) *has sufficient physical and mental capacity to practise in the category;*
 - (d) *has an adequate command of the English language;*
 - (e) *has adequate professional indemnity arrangements in place; and*
 - (f) *is of good character.*



The following is a guide to the evidence that must be provided in support of your application for registration or enrolment as a nurse or midwife in the Northern Territory, pursuant to section 22 of the Act.

Section 22(1)(a)... the applicant - is eligible to apply for the category [Nursing & Midwifery] of registration or enrolment;

To meet the requirements of section 22(1)(a) of the Act, applicants must demonstrate their eligibility for registration or enrolment in the category of nursing and/or midwifery. The evidence required by the Board is as follows:

For Registered Nurses and Midwives Educated in Australia and New Zealand

1. A certified copy of the nursing or midwifery qualification issued by an Australian or New Zealand education institution for Nursing or Midwifery, or the original or certified copy of the course transcript;
2. For Northern Territory New Graduates:
 - (a) A letter sent directly to the Board by the Course Coordinator declaring that the applicant has successfully completed all the course requirements and that the applicant has been assessed as competent against the relevant Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council Competency Standard; and
 - (b) A certified copy of the nursing or midwifery qualification issued by an Australian or New Zealand education institution for Nursing or Midwifery, or the original or certified copy of the course transcript.

For Enrolled Nurses Educated in Australia

1. A certified copy of qualification issued by an Australian education institution of Nursing, or the original or certified copy of the course transcript;
2. For Northern Territory New Graduates:
 - (a) A letter sent directly to the Board by the Course Coordinator declaring that the applicant has successfully completed all the course requirements and that the applicant has been assessed as competent against the relevant Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council Competency Standard; and
 - (b) A certified copy of qualification issued by an Australian education institution of Nursing, or the original or certified copy of the course transcript.

For Nurses Educated in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, the United States of America, Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong

1. A certified copy of nursing qualification.

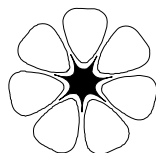
For Midwives Educated in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

1. A certified copy of midwifery qualification.

For Nurses and Midwives Educated in the Member States of the European Union¹

1. A certified copy of nursing or midwifery qualification;

¹ As at October 2009 member states of the EU include; Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom.



2. Evidence issued by the education institution or appropriate registering authority which verifies that the education program complies with European Union directive 2005/36/EC; and
3. Evidence that the nurse or midwife was registered in the European Union member state where the qualification was obtained.

For Nurses with Current Registration or Enrolment in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the United States of America, or Canada

1. A certified copy of nursing qualification.
2. Evidence of current registration in that Country.

For Nurses Educated in the People's Republic of China after 1975, Zimbabwe, the Republic of South Africa, or Yugoslavia²

Nurses educated in one of the above countries are automatically eligible to apply for **conditional** registration for the purposes of the applicant participating in an Overseas Nurse Competency Assessment Program in the Northern Territory. In order to be eligible for conditional registration, applicants must provide the following:

1. Evidence of acceptance into a Overseas Nurses Competency Assessment Program; and
2. A certified copy of nursing qualification.

For all other Internationally Qualified Nurses

Nurses and midwives educated in a country other than those mentioned above may still be eligible for **conditional** registration for the purposes of the applicant participating in an Board approved Competency Assessment Program in the Northern Territory. For further information on registration pathways for internationally qualified nurses and midwives, please see the Board's policy "*Demonstrating Competence: Information for Internationally Qualified Nurses and Midwives*", available at www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards under the heading *Codes and Policies*.

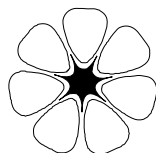
Section 22(1)(b)... the applicant - is competent to practise in the category [Nursing and Midwifery] and Section 22(1)(c)...the applicant - has sufficient physical and mental capacity to practise in the category [Nursing and Midwifery];

To meet the requirements of section 22(1)(b) and (c) of the Act, applicants must demonstrate both their competence and their capacity to practise. The Board requires that applicants provide the following as evidence of their competence and capacity to practice:

Registered Nurses are required to:

1. Declare to the Board whether or not they have practised as a nurse within the preceding 5 years (not applicable to New Graduates);
2. Declare to the Board whether or not they adhere to the Australia Nursing and Midwifery Council's (ANMC) Code of Ethics for Nurses and the ANMC Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses;
3. Declare to the Board whether or not they are a competent practitioner and that their practise meets the ANMC Competency Standards for the Registered Nurse;
4. Declare to the Board whether or not they participate in continuing professional development activities relevant to their profession;

² For the purposes of this section the former Republics of Yugoslavia are: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro; Macedonia and Slovenia.



5. Declare to the Board whether or not they suffer from physical or mental health condition, including substance dependence, that may affect their ability to practise competently; and
6. Provide a written work reference from their employer dated within the previous 6 months, (not applicable to New Graduates).

Enrolled Nurses are required to:

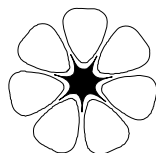
1. Declare to the Board whether or not they have practised as a nurse within the preceding 5 years (not applicable New Graduates);
2. Declare to the Board whether or not they practise under the supervision of a Registered Nurse;
3. Declare to the Board whether or not they adhere to the Australia Nursing and Midwifery Council's (ANMC) Code of Ethics for Nurses and the ANMC Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses;
4. Declare to the Board whether or not they are a competent practitioner and that their practise meets the ANMC Competency Standards for the Enrolled Nurse;
5. Declare to the Board whether or not they participate in continuing professional development activities relevant to their profession;
6. Declare to the Board whether or not they suffer from any physical or mental health condition, including substance dependence, that may affect their ability to practise competently; and
7. Provide a written work reference from their employer dated within the previous 6 months, (not applicable New Graduates).

Registered Nurses with Authorisation to Practise Midwifery are required to:

1. Declare to the Board whether or not they have practised as a nurse within the preceding 5 years;
2. Declare to the Board whether or not they have practised as a midwife within the preceding 5 years;
3. Declare to the Board whether or not they adhere to the Australia Nursing and Midwifery Council's (ANMC) Code of Ethics for Nurses and the ANMC Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses;
4. Declare to the Board whether or not they adhere to the ANMC Code of Ethics for Midwives and the ANMC Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives;
5. Declare to the Board whether or not they are a competent practitioner and that their practise meets the ANMC Competency Standards for the Registered Nurse and the ANMC Competency Standards for the Midwife;
6. Declare to the Board whether or not they participate in continuing professional development activities relevant to their professions;
7. Declare to the Board whether or not they suffer from any physical or mental health condition, including substance dependence, that may affect their ability to practise competently; and
8. Provide a written work reference from their employer dated within the previous 6 months, (not applicable New Graduates).

Midwives are required to:

1. Declare to the Board whether or not they have practised as a midwife within the preceding 5 years;
2. Declare to the Board whether or not they adhere to the Australia Nursing and Midwifery Council's (ANMC) Code of Ethics for Midwives and the ANMC Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives;



3. Declare to the Board whether or not they are a competent practitioner and that their practise meets the ANMC Competency Standards for the Midwife;
4. Declare to the Board whether or not they participate in continuing professional development activities relevant to their profession;
5. Declare to the Board whether or not they suffer from any physical or mental health condition, including substance dependence, that may affect their ability to practise competently; and
6. Provide a written work reference from their employer dated within the previous 6 months, (not applicable New Graduates).

For Nurses and Midwives Returning to Practice

Nurses and midwives who cannot demonstrate recency of practice³ will be required to provide evidence to the Board of their continuing competence to practice in contemporary clinical settings. The Board has made this determination in order to ensure that the legislative obligation imposed by section 22(1)(b) is met and the public is protected. For further information on registration pathways for nurses and midwives returning to practise, please see the Board's policy "*Demonstrating Competence: Information for Nurses and Midwives Returning to Practise*", available at www.nt.gov.au/health/regiationboards under the heading *Codes and Policies*.

Section 22(1)(d) the applicant – has an adequate command of the English language

From 1 July 2009, ANY and ALL nurses and midwives who have undertaken their nursing or midwifery education outside Australia will be required to demonstrate English language competence, regardless of country of origin. For further information on the standard of English language competence required by the Board, please refer to the *English Language Competency Policy* at www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards under the heading *Codes and Policies*.

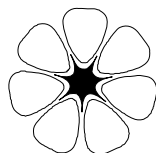
Section 22(1)(e) the applicant – has adequate professional indemnity arrangements in place

In the Northern Territory, all regulated health practitioners must have adequate professional indemnity arrangements in place before they commence practise in the Northern Territory. For further information about the requirement for professional indemnity, please see the Board's policy *Professional Indemnity Arrangements* available under the title of *General Policies* on the Board's website at www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards.

Section 22(1)(f) the applicant – is of good character

To meet the requirements of section 22(1)(f) of the Act, applicants must demonstrate to the Board's satisfaction that they are a person of good character. In order to satisfy the Board of this requirement, all applicants are must:

³ Recency of practice is defined by the Board as practice of the profession with the last five years.



1. Declare to the Board whether or not they have had their name suspended or removed from a register or been refused registration in any other jurisdiction for any reason relating to their professional conduct;
2. Declare to the Board whether or not they have ever been prohibited from or had any special condition imposed on their practise as a result of criminal, civil or disciplinary proceedings;
3. Declare to the Board whether or not they have been found guilty and/or been convicted of any offence, nor is there any change pending;
4. Declare to the Board whether or not they know of any outstanding matter relating to their registration in any other state, territory or country;
5. Provide a written character reference dated within the last 6 months; and
6. Provide a certificate of good standing directly from a nursing or midwifery registration Board that they currently hold registration with, or most recently held registration with. (This requirement is not applicable for new graduates who must provide a letter from their education provider that attests to their good character while a student with that provider.)

Identification Validation Requirements

All applicants seeking registration or enrolment in the Northern Territory must provide 100 points of identification. Applicants must provide at least one piece of photographic identification, one item of identification from Category B, and documents must be an original or certified as a true copy of the original by a Board approved certifier. For further information, please refer to the Board's policy in relation to *Identification Validation Requirements*, available on the Board's website under the title General Policies at www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards.

For Further Information

To learn more about the requirements of registration / enrolment / authorisation in the Northern Territory, or the role and function of the Nursing and Midwifery Board, please visit the Board's website at www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards or contact the Board at:

Health Professions Licensing Authority
2nd Floor Harbour View Plaza
Cnr McMinn and Bennett Street
GPO Box 4221
Darwin NT 0801

PH: +61 8 8999 4157
FAX: +61 8 8999 4196
Email: healthprofessions.ths@nt.gov.au