

CoNNMO meeting

3 October 2025

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Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

www.health.gov.au

Vision

Better health and wellbeing for all Australians, now and for future generations

Goals

Improve health & wellbeing of individuals

Better care & services

Reduce inequity of access, experience & outcomes

Sustainable & affordable health, disability & aged care systems

Strategic Priorities

Prevention & early intervention



1

Equity



2

Digital & technology



3

Integrated systems



4

Enablers

Health, disability & aged care workforce

Expenditure & financing

Knowledge sharing, research & innovation

Governance & evaluation

Accurate, accessible & integrated data

Therapeutic goods & services

Our context

Fragmented and complex health, disability & aged care systems

Growing chronic health burden

Environmental, health & social costs of climate change

Demographic change – ageing population

Growing fiscal constraints, higher cost care delivery

Global risk of emergent communicable disease

Socioeconomic inequality

Geographically dispersed population

Increasing demand for disability services

MIDWIVES

In 2024 total 30 888

Average weekly hours 24.2
equates to 14 707 FTE

Dual registration
is declining

1.8% First Nations

81% work in public

Average age is 45

Growing in numbers and
working more hours

Australian nursing and midwifery workforce



NURSES

In 2024 total 480,975

- NPs 2,837
- RNs 413,653
- ENs 64,485

1.6% First Nations

9% increase in NPs
from 2023-2024

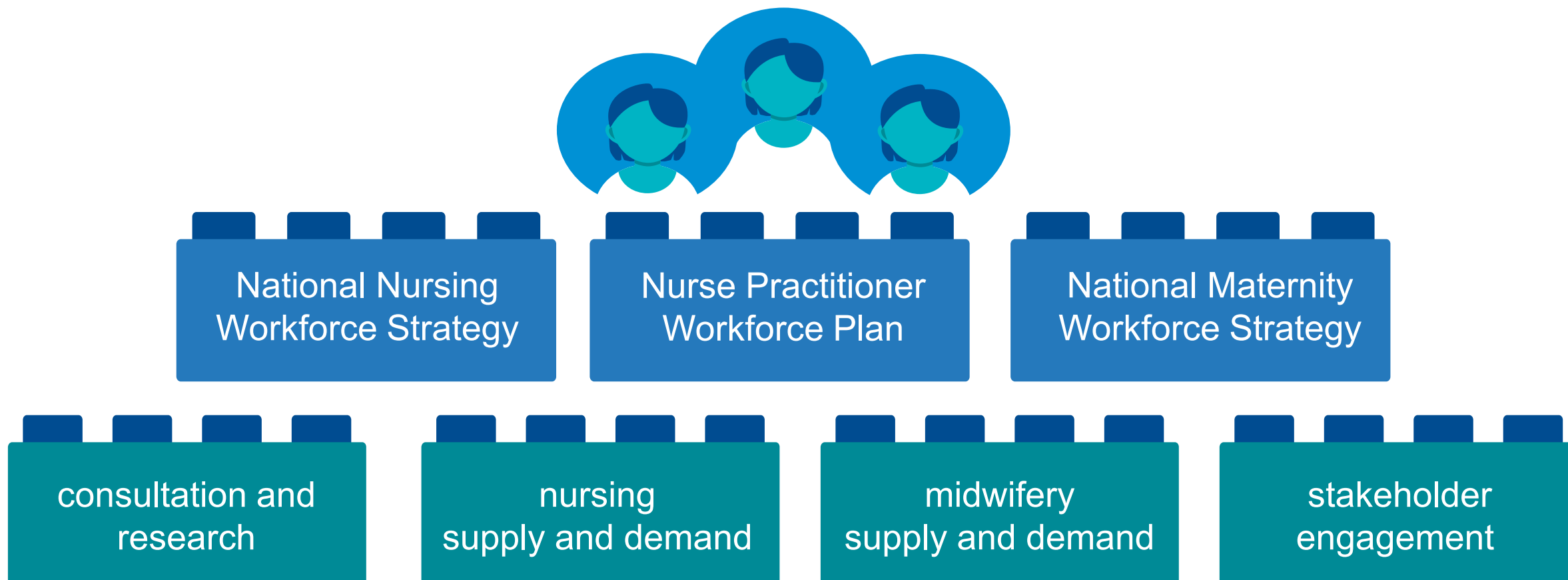
1% decline in ENs from
2023

Avg age of RN is 42 and NP is 50

74% of RNs work in major cities



Building a Sustainable Nursing & Midwifery Workforce: Strategies & Data Insights



Unlocking the potential of our nursing and midwifery workforce:

Enabling scope of practice, aligning
policy and impacting health reform



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Enabling Privately Practicing Midwives

- ✓ The *Midwife Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Amendment Bill* was passed in Parliament in late 2024. This amendment allows for government to cover 100% cost of claims for **eligible midwives** who provide labour and birth care outside of a hospital setting.
- ✓ The new insurance product is available for eligible endorsed midwives from **1 July 2025**.
- ✓ The current PII **exemption** in the *National Law* has been extended until 31st December 2026.
- ✓ The extension allows **sufficient time** for PPMs to be informed about the new insurance product and make necessary arrangements.



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Removal of collaborative arrangements



Expansion of MBS items



Primary care nursing and midwifery scholarship program



Expansion of the Midwife Professional Indemnity Scheme



Review of PBS listed items



Enhancing the pathway to access midwifery led continuity of care



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Designated Registered Nurse Prescriber (DRNP)



- Registration Standard: *Endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber* was officially approved by Health Ministers December 2024
- An endorsed designated registered nurse prescriber will be qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe and supply Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines in partnership with an authorised health practitioner under a prescribing agreement
- The Standard and associated guidelines came into effect 30 September 2025.
- The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council have published accreditation standards, and education providers have commenced development of education programs.
- Set of requirements to meet and maintain endorsement as DRNP
- The measure will enhance access to high-quality, reliable medicines for all Australians.

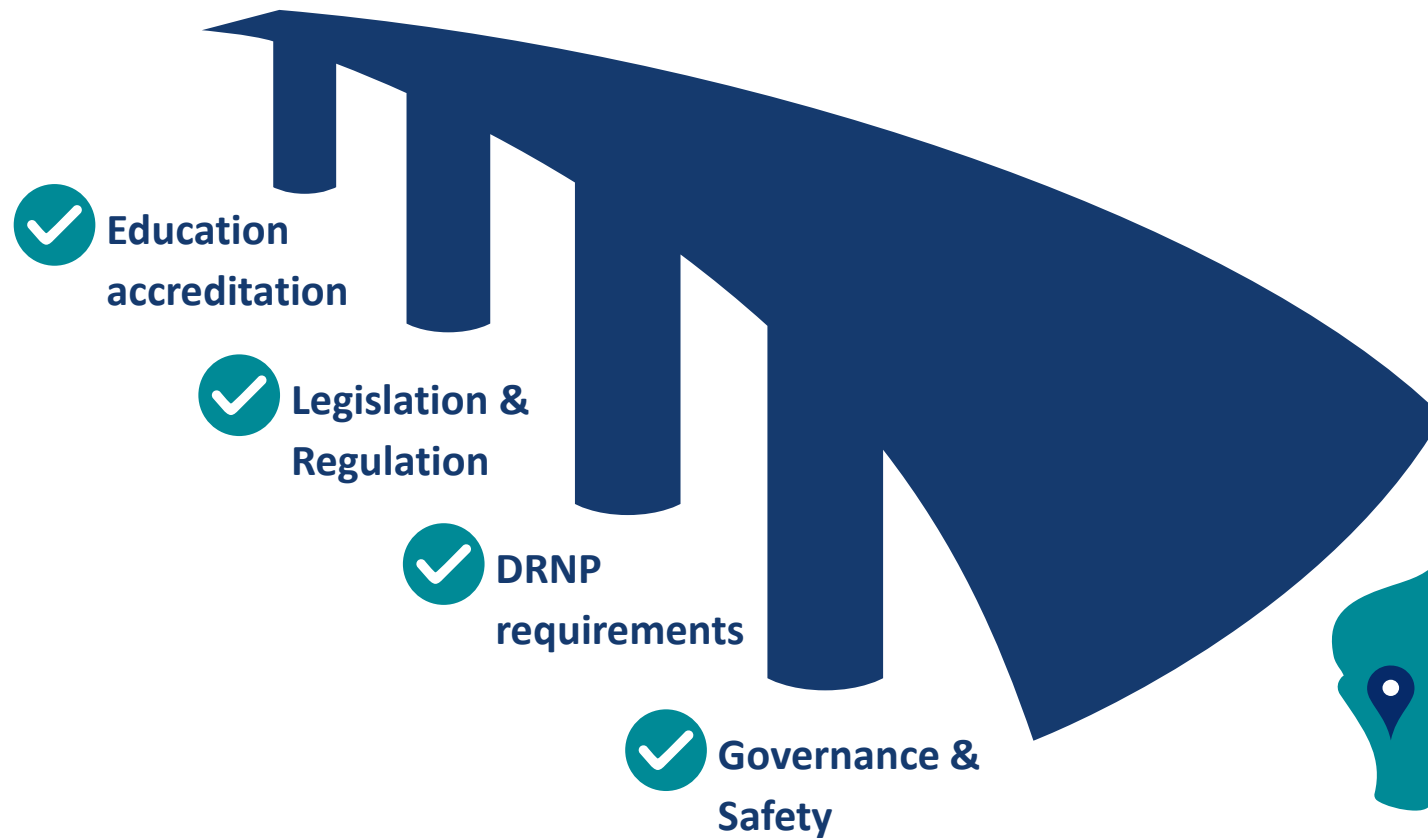


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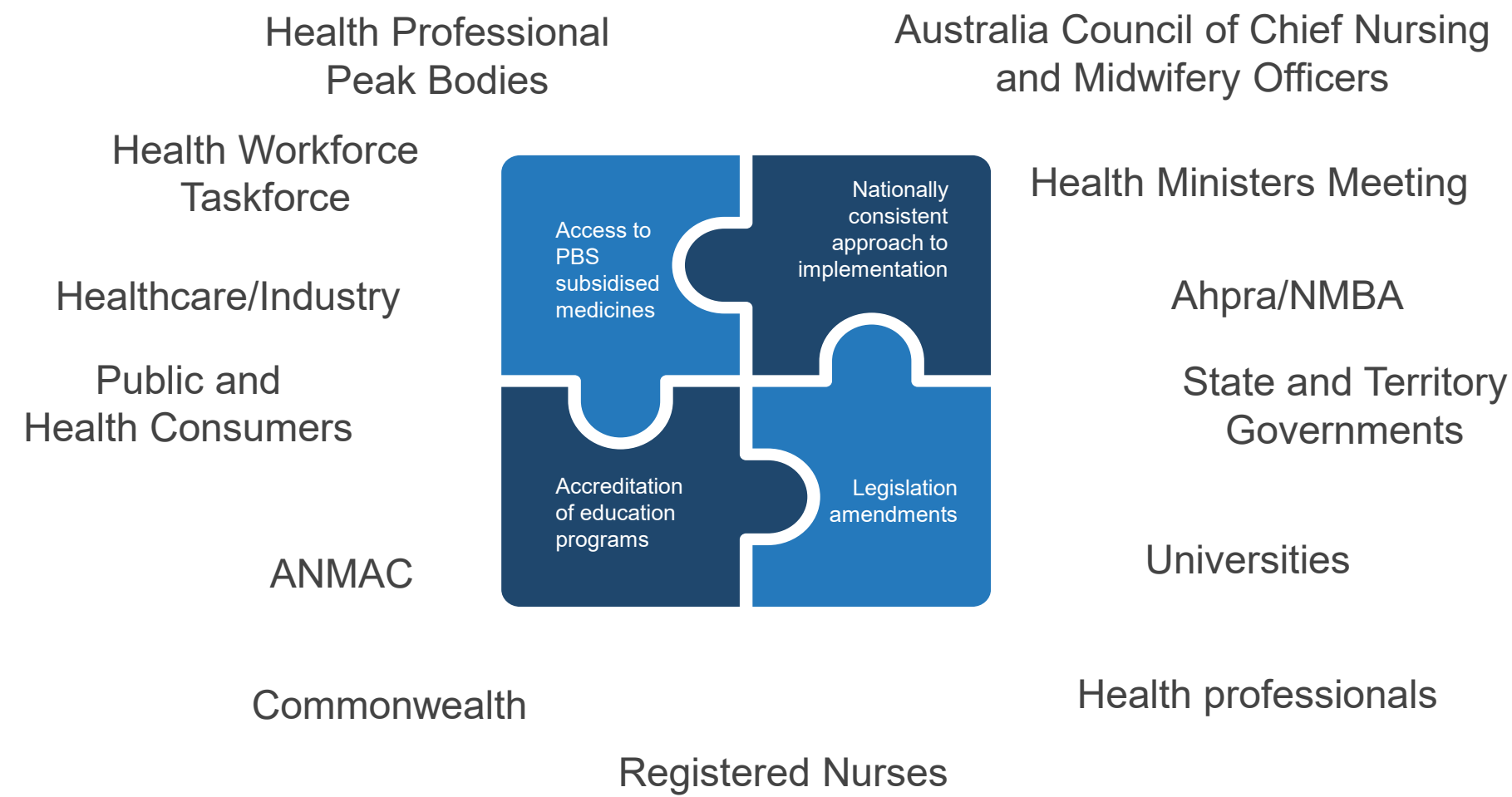
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

DRNP- Bridging access to care:

Enabling timely and safe access to medicines



DRNP: Effective collaboration will ensure successful implementation



Thank you!



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