



CoNNMO

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27 March 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

NMBA update



- National Scheme Strategy 2031
- 2026 NMBA registration renewal
- Independent Review of Complexity in the National Scheme (Dawson review)
- Designated RN prescribing
- Working with other Boards
- CATSINaM partnership
- Multi-profession review of codes of conduct
- EN/RN standards for practice
- Registration std: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives' public consultation
- Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives public consultation
- Overseas workforce
- Unregulated Birth Workers

National Scheme Strategy 2031

- The new National Scheme Strategy 2031 was considered by the Ahpra Board in early February and launched on 17 March 2026.
- The Strategy sets a clear roadmap for Ahpra and the National Scheme over the next five years.
- The Strategy is underpinned by three themes:
 - Effective harm prevention
 - Culturally safe health system for aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
 - Sustainable Health workforce

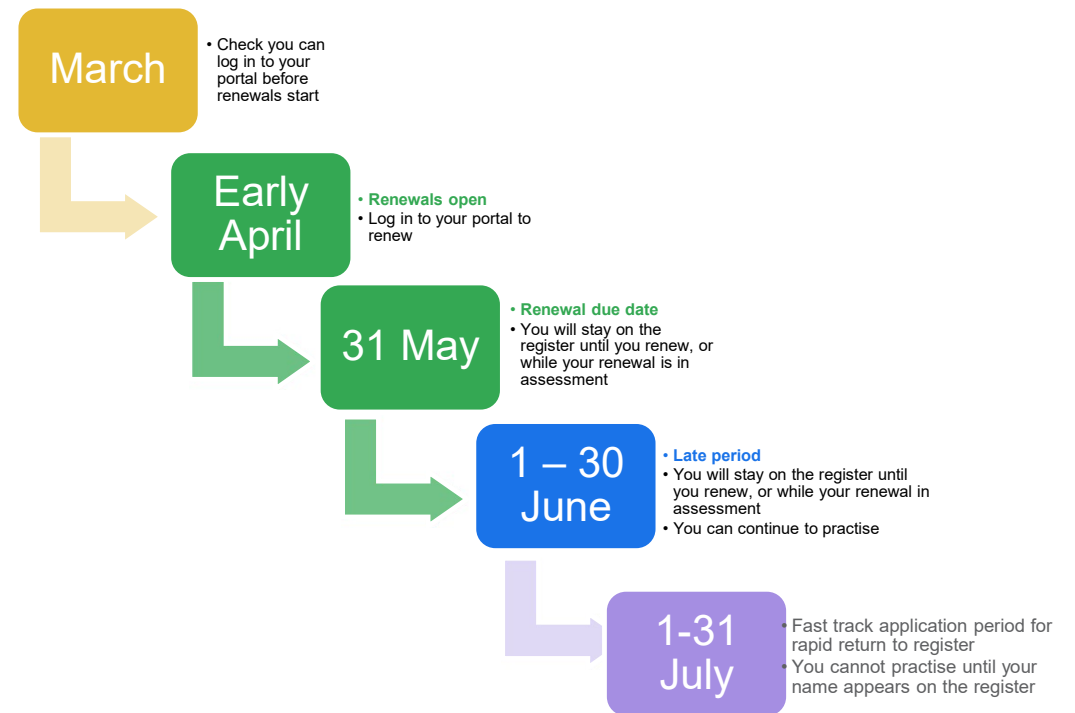
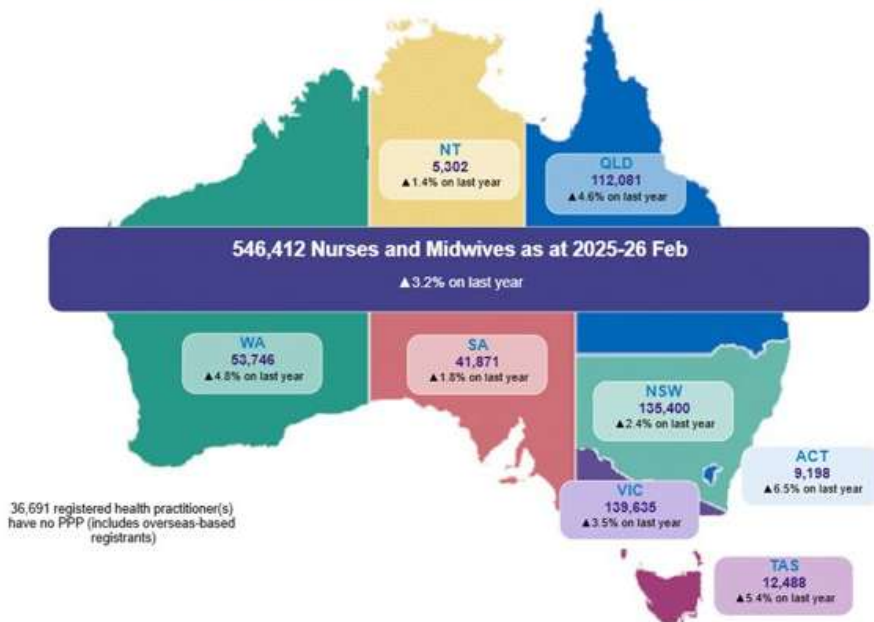
2026 NMBA registration renewal



Latest data of our nursing and midwifery registrants due to renew in April – May

Registration timeline

Nurses and Midwives in Australia



Dawson review

The Final Report Transforming health professions regulation in Australia: Independent Review was published on 12 September 2025 with 26 actions to be undertaken by Ahpra, governments and the Health Workforce Taskforce and other stakeholders.

- The NMBA will transition to a national governance structure for delegated decision-makers, replacing eight State and Territory Boards with national function-based committees for regulatory matters.
- This reform aligns with the Dawson Review and reflects the NMBA's commitment to contemporary governance, consistency, and efficiency.
- The transition is scheduled from September 2026 to allow sufficient time for engagement with jurisdictions, Health Ministers, and current Board members, and to complete all necessary implementation activities.
- This decision aligns with the Dawson Review and reflects NMBA's commitment to contemporary governance. Recommendation 3.7.4 of the Independent Review of Complexity in the National Scheme (Dawson Review).

Designated RN prescribing

“ *Enabling suitably qualified registered nurses to prescribe will give more Australians access to safe, affordable and timely healthcare and medicines* ”

Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia



Working with other Boards

Work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

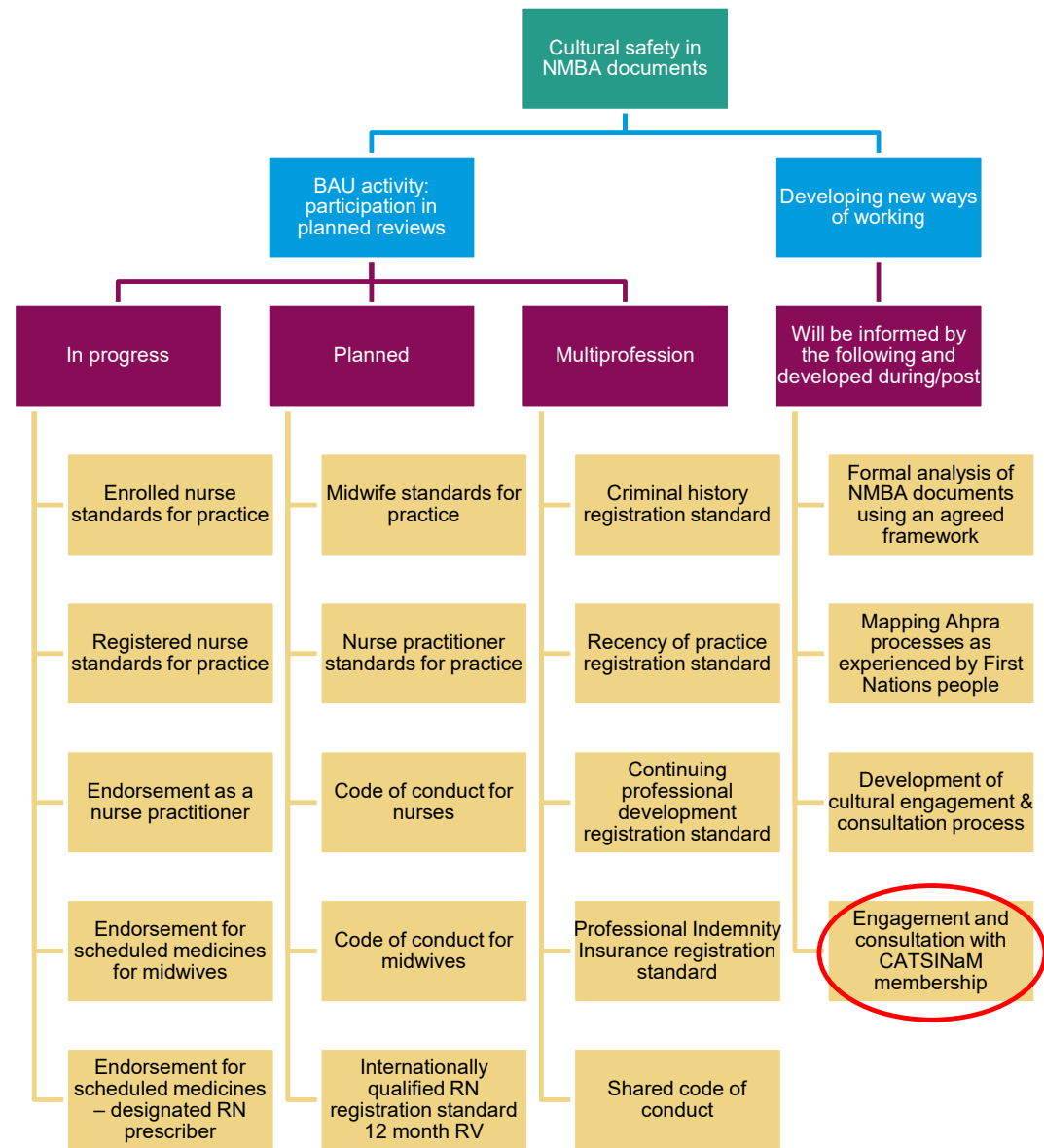
To complement the release of the *Fact sheet: Guidance for nurses and midwives working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners*, the NMBA and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board developed two videos to showcase what a culturally safe, racism-free, collaborative relationship between practitioners looks like.

In March 2026, Ahpra published [social media content](#) featuring nurses, midwives and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Health Practitioners that highlights culturally safe care.

CATSiNaM partnership

Landmark agreement aims to strengthen commitment to improve the quality and safety of contemporary nursing and midwifery practice to further influence culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples including nurses, midwives and students.

Review underway of NMBA standards, codes and guidelines to ensure cultural safety and the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is addressed.



Multi-profession review of codes of conduct

- The Codes of conduct for all National Boards (except Psychology) are now due for review.
- This includes the profession-specific Codes of conduct for the NMBA and Medical Board of Australia, and the shared Code of conduct used by 12 National Boards.
- The review will:
 - aim to ensure the Codes remain clear and easy to understand
 - reflect contemporary practice and public expectations
 - support harm prevention and responsiveness to emerging risk
 - prioritise cultural safety, equity and respectful care, and
 - promote public trust and confidence in health regulation.

EN/RN standards for practice



Review of the EN and RN standards for practice are being conducted concurrently to align both sets of standards

Both standards last reviewed in 2016

Public consultation on the both standards closed March 2026

It is anticipated new sets of standards will come into effect in late 2026



Public consultation: Registration standard Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives

Proposed key updates include:

- removal of the requirement for 5,000 hours of clinical practice
- removal of an identified context of practice
- inserting a new requirement for applications for endorsement to be submitted within 12-months of completing an endorsement qualification, and

Public consultation – April 2026

Public consultation: Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives

On 31 December 2026, the exemption from holding PII that is available to some PPMs who provide homebirth services will end.

To ensure the NMBA's professional practice framework for midwifery is aligned with the changes to the insurance landscape, the NMBA are working with key internal stakeholders to review:

- Registration standard: Professional indemnity insurance arrangements (and Fact sheet)
- Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives (SQG)

Proposed updates to the SQG are scope limited to contemporising and ensure PPMs are practising in culturally safe ways.

Public consultation – April 2026

Overseas workforce

Health Ministers endorse new registration standard to boost nursing workforce: IQRN Standard took effect 23 April 2025

Pathway 1

- 1 Relevant qualification obtained in an approved **comparable jurisdiction**
- 2 Current or previous general RN registration in an approved comparable jurisdiction.
- 3 Completed at least **1,800 practice hours** in an approved comparable jurisdiction since 1 Jan 2017
- 4 Meets other mandatory NMBA registration standards

Pathway 2

- 1 Relevant qualification obtained in a **non-comparable jurisdiction** since 1 January 2017
- 2 Completed regulatory examination leading to general RN registration in an approved comparable jurisdiction
- 3 Completed at least **1,800 practice hours** in an approved comparable jurisdiction since 1 Jan 2017
- 4 Meets other mandatory NMBA registration standards

Unregulated birth workers

- There are reports of increasing numbers of women choosing to engage an unregulated birth worker (UBW) for support during pregnancy, birth and/or the postnatal period.
- UBWs providing clinical care and/or clinical advice during the perinatal period presents a growing public safety risk.
- The NMBA is developing resources to inform:
 - practitioners of their professional and regulatory responsibilities when practising as or alongside an UBW and
 - raise awareness of the value of engaging a regulated health practitioner (midwife) for clinical care and/or advice in the perinatal period

UBWs may also be known as:

- Doula
- Birth Advocate
- Birth keeper
- Childbirth educator
- Birth worker
- Birth coach
- Birth companion
- Birth attendant
- Birth assistant
- Ex midwife
- Sovereign midwife
- Unregistered midwife
- Lay midwife
- Former midwife
- Traditional midwife
- Previously registered midwife

Questions