

Fact sheet

January 2025

Registration standard: General registration for internationally qualified registered nurses

Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) carries out functions as set by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The NMBA regulates the practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. The NMBA does this by developing registration standards, professional codes, guidelines and standards for practice which together establish the requirements for the professional and safe practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

The new **Registration standard: General registration for internationally qualified registered nurses** (the standard) will offer two additional pathways for eligible internationally qualified registered nurses (IQRNs) to register in Australia.

The following questions reflect common queries about the new *Registration standard: General registration for internationally qualified registered nurses*.

Who does this apply to?

The standard applies to IQRNs who hold a qualification relevant to the profession and who have practised for at least 1,800 hours in NMBA-approved comparable jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada (British Columbia and Ontario), Singapore and Spain. It does not apply to IQRNs with substantially equivalent qualifications or those holding a sole qualification in mental health nursing, paediatric nursing, or disability nursing.

Why has the NMBA developed this new registration standard?

The NMBA is committed to developing, reviewing and streamlining existing approaches to registration for suitably qualified and experienced internationally qualified nurses and midwives (IQNMs).

The standard streamlines the assessment and registration process for eligible experienced IQRNs who may have qualified in other countries but have registered and practised as a registered nurse in an NMBA-approved comparable jurisdiction.

By removing the need for NMBA examinations or qualification upgrades, the standard provides greater flexibility for eligible experienced IQRNs to become registered in Australia, saving time and costs for these practitioners, and aligns with the key reform priorities outlined in the Australian Government [Final Report of the Independent review of Australia's regulatory settings relating to overseas health practitioners](#).

All the requirements set out in the standard must be met to be eligible for general registration.

What is an NMBA-approved comparable jurisdiction?

An NMBA-approved international regulatory jurisdiction (country, state or province) is one which has comparable regulatory approaches, regulatory standards for education and registration, regulatory processes, and procedures for the registration of IQRNs. A current list of the NMBA-approved comparable jurisdictions is published on the NMBA website.

How did NMBA decide on the current list of approved comparable jurisdictions?

The current list of NMBA-approved comparable jurisdictions is founded on strong evidentiary work and benchmarking commissioned by the International Nurse Regulatory Collaborative (INRC) from 2018 to 2023, of which the NMBA is a member.

Why is New Zealand not listed as an NMBA-approved comparable jurisdiction?

New Zealand is not listed because experienced IQRNs who hold registration with the Nursing Council of New Zealand are already eligible to apply for registration in Australia under the [Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act](#).

Why is there a requirement of at least 1,800 practice hours in an NMBA-approved comparable jurisdiction?

The NMBA regulates the practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. The requirement of at least 1,800 practice hours in an NMBA-approved comparable jurisdiction helps ensure eligible experienced IQRNs:

- meet the professional standards, criteria, processes, and procedures to obtain and maintain their registration in a jurisdiction with regulatory standards for education and registration, regulatory approaches, processes and procedures that are comparable to Australia, and
- have had sufficient opportunity to consolidate their professional practice in a jurisdiction where standards for nursing practice align with those expected in Australia.

The 1,800 practice hours is approximately equivalent to working one year full-time in Australia – calculated at 38 hours per week over 48 weeks (allowing for an average of 4 weeks of leave). This aligns with the accepted maximum weekly hours of work set by the Australian Government's *Fair Work National Employment Standards*.

For more information

- [Internationally qualified nurses and midwives](#) information on the NMBA website
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (in Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)

Document history

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Policy history: Is this a new policy? **Y**

Does this policy amend or update an existing policy? **N**

If so which version **n/a**

Does this policy replace another policy with a different title? **N**

Approval date	Version	Reason for change
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