

Patient and consumer health and safety impact statement

Statement purpose

March 2024

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (NMBA) *Patient and consumer health and safety impact statement* (the statement)¹ explains the potential impacts of a proposed registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of the public, vulnerable members of the community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The four key components considered in the statement are:

1. The potential impact of the proposed guidelines on the health and safety of people and their families, particularly vulnerable members of the community. This includes approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects.
2. The potential impact of the proposed guidelines on the health and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects.
3. Engagement with people and their families particularly vulnerable members of the community about the proposal.
4. Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about the proposal.

The NMBA's *Patient and consumer health and safety impact statement* aligns with the National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#), [National Scheme engagement strategy 2020-2025](#), [the National Scheme Strategy 2020-25](#) and reflect key aspects of the revised consultation process in the [AManC Procedures for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines and accreditation standards](#).

¹ This statement has been developed by Ahpra and the National Boards in accordance with section 25(c) and 35(c) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). Section 25(c) requires AHPRA to establish procedures for ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice. Section 35(c) assigns the National Boards functions to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the health profession including the development of registration standards for approval by the COAG Health Council and that provide guidance to health practitioners registered in the profession. Section 40 of the National Law requires National Boards to ensure that there is wide-ranging consultation during the development of a registration standard, code, or guideline.

Below is the NMBA's initial assessment of the potential impact of the proposed guidelines on the health and safety of people who may access privately practising nurse (PPN) care, particularly vulnerable members of the community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This statement will be updated after consultation feedback.

1. How will the proposed guidelines impact the health and safety of people accessing PPN care, particularly vulnerable members of the community? Will the impact be different for vulnerable people compared to the general public?

The NMBA has carefully considered the impacts of the proposed guidelines to people accessing PPN care, particularly vulnerable members of the community to put forward what we think is the best option for consultation.

The proposed guidelines are based on the best available evidence and best practice regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of people accessing PPN services is at the centre of the regulation. The guidelines have been proposed to ensure the regulation remains contemporary and fit for purpose. This means the proposed guidelines are expected to maintain the standard of care provided by PPNs. They do not introduce new or untested requirements. This means people accessing PPN services, including vulnerable members of the community can expect continued consistency in the high standard of PPN care enabled through this regulation.

Through this consultation, our engagement will help us to better understand possible outcomes and meet our responsibilities to protect public safety and healthcare quality.

2. How will consultation engage with people accessing PPN care, particularly vulnerable people who may be currenting or thinking of accessing PPN services?

In line with our established consultation processes, the NMBA is undertaking public consultation. We will engage with people accessing PPN services, professional associations and peak bodies, consumer representative bodies and many other relevant organisations to gain input and views from vulnerable members of the community. To do this, we will engage directly with these people and groups through a public consultation process. We will achieve this through multiple communication channels including direct emails, website updates, social media and the NMBA newsletter.

3. What might be the unintended impacts for people accessing PPN care particularly vulnerable members of the community? How will these be addressed?

The NMBA has carefully considered what the unintended impacts of the proposed guidelines might look like. Consulting with relevant organisations and vulnerable members of the community will help us to identify any other potential impacts. We will fully consider and take actions to address any potential negative impacts for members of the community that may be raised during consultation.

4. How will this proposal impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? How will the impact be different for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples compared to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?

In proposing the guidelines, the NMBA has carefully considered any potential impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and how the impact compared to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people might be different. Through this consultation, our engagement will help us to identify any other potential impacts and meet our responsibilities to protect safety and healthcare quality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

5. How will consultation about this proposal engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?

The NMBA is committed to the National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Health and Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#) which focuses on achieving patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the norm, and the inextricably linked elements of clinical and cultural safety.

As part of our consultation process, we have tried to find the best way to meaningfully engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We are doing this by proactively consulting with Aboriginal Patient and consumer health and safety impact statement – Proposed Guidelines for privately practising nurses

and Torres Strait Islander health policy leaders, peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professional bodies and the national leadership body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in Australia. We will continue to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and stakeholders throughout the consultation.

6. What might be the unintended impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? How will these be addressed?

The NMBA has carefully considered what might be any unintended impacts from the proposed guidelines. Continuing to engage with relevant organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples will help us to identify any other potential impacts. We will consider and take action to address any other potential negative impacts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples that may be raised during consultation.

7 How will the impact of this proposal be actively monitored and evaluated?

In partnership with Ahpra, the NMBA will continually monitor compliance with the proposed guidelines. Engagement with audit is a mandatory requirement for all health practitioners registered under the National Scheme, including PPNs. The audit provides assurance to the NMBA that the level of regulation offered by the proposed guidelines is appropriate and proportionate, that compliance with the requirements is met and that the regulation is achieving its public safety objectives. It also provides feedback to the NMBA about the operation, effect, and impact of the regulation for continuous improvement.

Part of the NMBA's work in keeping the public safe is ensuring that all NMBA standards, codes and guidelines are regularly reviewed. This generally occurs every five (5) years or earlier if required. In future the NMBA will review the guidelines to ensure that they are working as intended.