

## Fact sheet

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23 March 2020

COVID - 19

Education and program accreditation matters

### Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) undertakes 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 NMBA and the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) are the bodies responsible for the regulation of the nursing and midwifery professions and the accreditation of nursing and midwifery education respectively.

### COVID-19

As demand on healthcare resources escalate, students in NMBA-approved nursing or midwifery undergraduate programs of study may not be able to attend classes or clinical placements and that the responses to COVID-19 may mean the accreditation of programs is impacted.

### Who is this fact sheet for?

This fact sheet applies to education providers and students in NMBA-approved nursing and midwifery undergraduate programs.

### Can education providers extend the length of an ANMAC accredited and NMBA-approved program of study?

The NMBA and ANMAC understand that the ongoing and changing situation surrounding COVID-19 may mean that students are not able to attend classes or clinical placements and that extensions to the length of programs to enable students time to complete may be required. The NMBA and ANMAC will provide further information on this soon.

### Is ANMAC accrediting programs?

Program accreditation is continuing, there may be a requirement to postpone or cancel site visits. In this circumstance, alternatives such as video/teleconferencing or virtual site visits will be organised.

### What is happening with professional experience placements (PEP)?

Where possible, PEP should continue, preference should be given to students in the final year of their program to ensure that the program requirements and the relevant NMBA standards for practice can be met for registration.

### What should education providers and students do right now?

For all accredited nursing and midwifery programs it is important that education providers continue to offer the curriculum and that students continue to attend unless otherwise informed by their education provider. Education providers are transferring as much theory online as possible. At this stage skills labs and clinical placements will proceed as advised by the education provider.

### Document control

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