

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners response to:

Public consultation
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

Nurse practitioner standards for practice

Monday 31st August 2020

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
nmbafeedback@ahpra.gov.au

SUBJECT: Nurse practitioner standards for practice

Dear NMBA,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the proposed revised Nurse practitioner standards for practice.

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) is the national peak organisation for Nurse Practitioners, advancing nursing practice and consumer access to health care. We actively seek opportunities to contribute to improvements to safety, quality and access to health care.

Please find the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners responses to the questions below.

1. The presentation of the proposed revised standards has been aligned to the presentation of the Registered nurse standards for practice and the Midwifery standards for practice.

Do you agree that the content and structure of the proposed revised standards improved from the previous iteration?

The content and structure has improved from the previous iteration, it makes sense to standardise the structure across similar documents.

2. 'Support of systems' is a key component of advanced practice. Support of systems is embedded in the NP orientating statements and is more evident with the renaming of Standard 4 to 'Supporting health systems'

Do you agree with the way that 'Support of systems' has been included in the document? If no, how could it be improved?

Yes, we agree with the Support of Systems, and the way that health has been incorporated – Supporting health systems. Health should be a term used throughout orientating statements and definitions.

3. The Nurse practitioner standards framework has been amended to denote the clinical independence of nurse practitioners.

Do you agree with the changes made to the Nurse practitioners standard framework (Figure 1, on page 2 of the Standards for practice document)? If no, how could it be improved?

ACNP agrees with the changes to the framework. While we agree that Nurse Practitioners are autonomous, and capable of working independently, we would also like to see a reflection that they work as part of the wider health care team.

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4. The glossary has been revised to include updates to the key definitions of ‘advanced practice’ and ‘nurse practitioner’. New definitions of ‘autonomous’ and ‘independence’ have been added as well as current NMBA definitions for ‘cultural safety’ and ‘standards for practice’.

Are there any other terms that are used in the document that you feel should be included in the glossary to provide greater clarity?

No additions to the Glossary are suggested.

5. Do you have any other comments on the proposed revised standards?

Yes. The ACNP has further considered the opportunity that the review of these Standards for Practice represents. The Orientating statements are very clear and much improved, the only addition would be in relation to our response to Q3, reflection of the interaction with the wider health care team. This can incorporate NPs interacting with other health care providers, and also others within health consulting with NPs to achieve optimal health outcomes.

How to use these Standards – this should also be aimed at education providers, particularly post-graduate education providers, in addition to all of the other stakeholders mentioned.

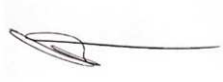
The ACNP firmly supports these Standards for Practice, however we would like to see a statement included on the educational standards for courses leading to endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner. As all other documents and standards flow from this one, it is essential to consider it within this document first and foremost.

Despite ANMAC upholding the existing standards, we are concerned that some courses do not provide the breadth of education needed to support a broader scope of advanced practice, which can then also support more advanced specialty practice as applicable. Primarily, we would like to see a full lifespan, all systems advanced practice approach to the Nurse Practitioner Master’s course (Pathway 1), that also allows for development and growth of specialisations.

The ACNP is keen to work with both the NMBA and ANMAC to review education standards to improve understanding and consistency of the NP role, and the preparedness of the Nurse Practitioner to work across a variety of settings and systems. We believe this will improve acceptance of the role, employment opportunities, and see the growth of the role in the future to meet health care needs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important review.

Yours sincerely



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