



Australian College of Nursing

**PUBLIC
CONSULTATION:
PROPOSED CHANGE
TO DEFINITIONS
RELATION TO
ADVANCED PRACTICE**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: PROPOSED CHANGE TO DEFINITIONS RELATION TO ADVANCED PRACTICE

Written response questions for consideration

Please provide feedback in a word document (or equivalent)¹ to nmbafeedback@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on Friday 19 April 2019. The NMBA is inviting feedback on the following questions.

1. Is the proposed definition of *advanced practice* helpful, clear and more workable compared to the current definition of *advanced nursing practice*?

A. This is a significant improvement on the current title and definitions. However, as a definition that may influence professional, educational, industrial as well as regulatory decisions it needs more clarity. For example:

- This purports to be a definition about advanced practice. Yet the statement defines nurses – not the practice.
- There is a disjunction between the term and the definition. Is the term *advanced practice* meant to apply to any health worker and the definition is how it applies to nursing? If yes, why would the NMBA provide this? If not, the definition needs to be about advanced practice nursing. The latter term is ingrained in Australian nursing lexicon and that is unlikely to change.
- Whilst clinical practice is inferred, the definition needs to specify *clinical* practice (as opposed to academic or education practice) as being advanced.
- The term '*relevant expertise*' needs explaining – what is relevant – and what specific expertise is required in addition to that already included?
- A nurse practicing at an advanced level would be 'managing people' across a range of complexity and health care requirements and not limited to *people who have complex healthcare requirements*.

B. There are also grammatical issues.

- *Nurses practising at an advanced practice level* - the word practice is redundant in this case

¹ You are welcome to supply a PDF file of your feedback in addition to the word (or equivalent) file, however we request that you do supply a text or word file. As part of an effort to meet international website accessibility guidelines, AHPRA and National Boards are striving to publish documents in accessible formats (such as word), in addition to PDFs. More information about this is available at www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Accessibility.aspx.

- *Their practice includes ... autonomous practice should be autonomy. Again, the word practice is redundant.*

C. The second component: *Advanced practice for the purpose of the nurse practitioner endorsement requires 5,000 hours clinically based practice.*

This statement is unclear and ambiguous. Perhaps it could be best described as:

Nurse practitioner endorsement requires evidence of 5,000 hours of clinically-based advanced practice

2. Does the proposed definition of **advance practice** meet the needs of both the regulatory and the nursing profession requirements in the Australian context?

Due to the lack of clarity, the proposed definition is open to manipulation to incorporate several different meanings and therefore not useful for regulatory or professional requirements.

3. Do you have any other comments on the proposed definition of **advanced practice**?

No

4. Does the proposed definition of **nurse practitioner** (replacing the current definition of *advanced practice nurse*) appropriately reflect the ongoing regulatory requirements of a nurse practitioner?

Yes. This definition is a significant improvement.