

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

By email: [nmbafeedback@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:nmbafeedback@ahpra.gov.au)

To whom it may concern

### **ACN feedback on the NMBA proposed revised Nurse practitioner standards for practice**

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) would like to thank the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Proposed revised Nurse practitioner standards for practice.

ACN supports Option 2 of the proposed revised Nurse practitioner standards for practice for the reasons provided in the Public Consultation Paper.

ACN promoted this consultation opportunity to our Fellows and members, some of whom are also Nurse Practitioners. Their insights and feedback have contributed to ACN's response to the consultation questions as provided below.

*Q1. 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?*

Yes, ACN members agree that the content and structure of the proposed revised standards has been improved from the previous iteration. Replacement of the word 'cues' with 'the NP' is welcome and numbering makes it much easier to refer to each individual standard. Inclusion of a link to the ICN Code of ethics for nurses is a necessary inclusion as well since it is one of the pillars of practice for all nurses.

*Q2. '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?*

Yes, ACN members agree with the way that 'Support of systems' has been included in the document as it clarifies the nature and extent of the expectations of nurse practitioners in health system reform specifically and more broadly, through for example, involvement in professional organisations. It is also important that it is included in the Glossary, as has been done, to give a shared understanding of its intention and meaning.

ACN is strongly supportive of the emphasis on research and practice articulated in Standards 4.1.6-4.1.7 as this will drive improvements to systems which will ultimately benefit patient care. The revisions make Standard 4 a more inclusive standard and more obviously aligns NPs with the communities where they deliver care.

*Q3. 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?*

ACN members agree with the changes made to the Nurse practitioners' standard framework so have no suggestions for improvement.

*Q4. 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?*

ACN does not consider that any other terms used in the document should be included in the glossary.

*Q5. Do you have any other comments on the proposed revised standards?*

ACN commends the NMBA for the proposed revisions as they add clarity to the exact nature of the role of the NP and reflect contemporary practice: the revised emphasis on culturally safe and respectful practices is a welcome example.

ACN would like to commend the NMBA for undertaking this work and extend best wishes for further success in promoting and supporting the important work of nurse practitioners.

If you have further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact me, Dr Carolyn Stapleton FACN, Director of Policy, Strategy and Advocacy, at [carolyn.stapleton@acn.edu.au](mailto:carolyn.stapleton@acn.edu.au).

Yours sincerely



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