

## Fact sheet

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Updated March 2023

### Student registration

#### 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 standards, codes and guidelines which together establish the requirements of the professional practice framework for the professional and safe practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

Under the National Law, all nursing and midwifery students enrolled in an [approved program of study](#), or who are undertaking [clinical training](#) in nursing or midwifery, must be registered as a student with the NMBA.

#### Getting registered

Individual students **do not** need to do anything to register with the NMBA.

Education providers are responsible for making sure they have provided the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra), on behalf of the NMBA, details of all students enrolled in an NMBA-approved program of study or who are undertaking clinical training in nursing or midwifery.

#### Students enrolled in approved programs of study

On behalf of the NMBA, Ahpra requests an update of all new and existing students enrolled in an approved program of study from all education providers twice a year to coincide with each academic census date (March and August).

An [approved program of study](#) is a program that is:

- accredited by the **Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council**, and
- approved by the NMBA.

#### Students undertaking clinical training

Student registration also applies to students who are **not** enrolled in an approved program of study but are undertaking clinical training (such as clinical placement, rotation) in a health profession for which they do not hold nursing or midwifery registration.

Education providers must provide Ahpra with student details at the start of their clinical training.

For the purpose of clinical training, 'education providers' also include:

- health services
- other organisations, and
- in some instances, individuals.

### Why do I need to be registered as a student?

The National Law states that students must be registered in the interests of public safety.

Student registration allows the NMBA to act on matters relating to students with impairment or when convictions of a serious nature may affect public safety.

### Does the information collected about my student registration become publicly available?

No. The student register is **not** published on the NMBA or Ahpra websites and is **not** publicly available nor is it accessible to education providers, health services or students.

Under the National Law, information on the student register must remain confidential.

### What information does Ahpra collect about me as a student?

Ahpra, on behalf of the NMBA, requests education providers for the following information:

#### **Student:**

- name
- ID number
- date of birth
- sex
- mailing address in Australia
- email details

#### **Name of:**

- education provider
- approved program of study or clinical training being undertaken by the student

#### **Date on which the student:**

- started the approved program of study or clinical training
- is expected to complete the approved program of study or clinical training, and
- has completed or ceased to be enrolled in the approved program of study or clinical training, if applicable. In this case, the education provider needs to provide the reason why the student completed or otherwise ceased to be enrolled in the approved program of study or clinical training.

### Is there a fee for student registration?

No fee applies to student registration.

### What is the NMBA's role in relation to my student registration?

For each registered student, the NMBA's focus is mainly on managing notifications. This applies to those students who have:

- a health impairment to such a degree that there may be substantial risk of harm to the public
- been found guilty of an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more
- a conviction of, or are the subject of, a finding of guilt for an offence punishable by imprisonment, or
- contravened an existing condition or undertaking.

### Who can make a notification against a registered student?

Ahpra may receive notifications from either:

- an education provider who is required under the National Law to report students with health impairment to such a degree that there may be substantial risk of harm to the public, or
- an entity (person or organisation) that voluntarily reports the student for a health impairment or criminal matter and/or a contravention of an existing condition or undertaking.

### **Is the NMBA concerned with a student's academic progress or conduct?**

Matters relating to academic progress or conduct are for education providers to address.

The NMBA and Ahpra have no role in the academic progress or conduct of students, other than when they have:

- offences punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more, or
- a conviction of, or are the subject of, a finding of guilt for an offence punishable by imprisonment.

### **I am already registered with the NMBA as a nurse and a midwife but I am now also enrolled in an approved program of study in nursing. Do I need to be registered again as a student?**

No, your education provider does not need to register you again with the NMBA. Student registration is not required for people who are already registered in the health profession in which training is being undertaken.

### **What period of time will I be registered as a student?**

Student registration begins:

- from the first year of the program for students enrolled in approved programs of study, or
- on commencement of clinical training in nursing or midwifery.

Student registration ends when a student completes, or otherwise ceases to be enrolled in, the approved program of study or clinical training in nursing or midwifery.

The education provider advises Ahpra, on behalf of the NMBA, of students who complete or cease their approved program of study or clinical training.

### **Will the NMBA know my academic results?**

Not while you are studying.

The NMBA and Ahpra have no role in the academic progress or conduct of students, other than when they have:

- offences punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more, or
- a conviction of, or are the subject of, a finding of guilt for an offence punishable by imprisonment.

Education providers manage independently their own disciplinary and academic progress pathways.

### **Why does the NMBA and Ahpra need my email address?**

In order to establish and maintain ongoing communication with you as a student, Ahpra, on behalf of the NMBA, asks education providers to supply students' email addresses.

### **Will I receive a registration certificate or confirmation of my registration?**

No. Students do not get a certificate of registration or confirmation of student registration.

The student register is not public and health services or other entities needing proof of your registration need to contact your education provider for details of your program of study.

### **How will I know that I am registered as a student?**

Under the National Law, your education provider is obliged to notify you once your details are successfully added to the student register.

The student register is not published on the NMBA or Ahpra websites and is not publicly available; nor is it accessible to education providers, health services or students. Under the National Law, information on the student register must remain confidential.

If you are not sure about your registration as a student, speak to your education provider.

### **Will I be automatically registered as a nurse and/or a midwife after I complete my studies?**

No, a separate process exists for registration as a nurse or a midwife.

In order to become registered as a nurse and/or a midwife, you must meet the NMBA's mandatory [registration standards](#).

### **I am a final year student in an approved program of study. Can I apply as a graduate for registration as a nurse and/or a midwife?**

Yes. Students of nursing or midwifery about to graduate can go online to apply early for registration as a nurse or a midwife.

An [online graduate service](#) is available on the Ahpra website for final year students in approved programs of study. You can apply for registration four to six weeks before completing your program.

For more information about the graduate registration process, visit the [graduate information](#) on the NMBA website.

### **Am I obliged as a student to tell Ahpra anything?**

Under the National Law, if you are enrolled in an approved program of study or are undertaking clinical training, you must notify your local [Ahpra office](#) within seven days of becoming aware that:

- you have been charged with an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more
- you have been convicted of, or are the subject of, a finding of guilt for an offence punishable by imprisonment, or
- your registration under the law of another country that provides for the registration of students has been suspended or cancelled.

### **What is a voluntary notification against a student?**

Any entity (person or organisation) may make a voluntary notification to Ahpra about a student when they believe that you have, or may have:

- been charged with an offence, or has been convicted or found guilty of an offence, that is punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more
- a health impairment that may harm the public, or
- contravened a condition of your student registration or an undertaking you have given to the NMBA.

The National Law protects from civil, criminal and administrative liability anyone who, in good faith, makes a notification under the National Law.

### **What happens when a voluntary notification is made against a student?**

Ahpra, on behalf of the NMBA, will assess all notifications to determine whether the NMBA must consider taking immediate action to protect public health or safety.

More information on [notifications and outcomes](#) is published on the Ahpra website.

### **For more information**

- [Student registration](#) information on the NMBA website
- Visit [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au) under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (in Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)

## Document history

**Approved by:** Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

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Does this policy amend or update an existing policy? **Y**  
If so which version **v2.1**  
Does this policy replace another policy with a different title? **N**

Approval date	Version	Reason for change
March 2023	v2.2	New document template Minor typographic updates (AHPRA to Ahpra) Inclusion of document history table
June 2019	v2.1	Clarification regarding clinical training being relevant to nursing and midwifery
November 2016	v2.0	Clarification regarding National Law requirements for student registration Inclusion of 'For more information' section
March 2015	v1.0	n/a