

TRIM OUT26/146



30 January 2026

Apolline Kohen  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Community Affairs  
Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Sent via email: [Community.Affairs.Sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:Community.Affairs.Sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Ms Kohen

### **Health Legislation Amendment (Prescribing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2025**

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission in relation to the *Health Legislation Amendment (Prescribing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2025*.

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) are in support of this Bill which would allow designated registered nurse prescribers to prescribe certain medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), attracting Commonwealth subsidies, and enabling access to equitable and affordable medicines for the community.

#### **Background**

In December 2024, Health Ministers approved the *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines – Designated registered nurse prescriber*. The registration standard and supporting guidelines came into effect on 30 September 2025. Applications for the endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber opened on 21 November 2025.

Currently, the NMBA and Ahpra are progressing implementation of the registration standard to enable registered nurses to receive the endorsement. Jurisdictions are also progressing with implementation to enable designated registered nurse prescribers to practice within the requirements. The jurisdictions are aiming for designated registered nurse prescribers to commence prescribing in the second half of 2026.

#### **Impact of access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme**

Enabling designated registered nurse prescribers to prescribe under the PBS attracting Commonwealth subsidies, support the benefits of the designated registered nurse prescriber role and reduce the financial cost for consumers when accessing medicines. This would support and maximise the impact of designated registered nurse prescribing, particularly in rural and remote areas and among communities with limited access to prescribers.

Additionally, allowing designated registered nurse prescribing under the PBS is expected to support viability of the role in public and private health settings and enhance utility within the healthcare workforce and system. Without access to PBS, there is the possibility community members may continue to only engage with health practitioners who can prescribe under the PBS.

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### **Proposed amendments**

The NMBA support the requirement for designated registered nurse prescribers who will prescribe under the PBS to have an agreement in place with one or more other kinds of PBS prescribers. This aligns with the registration standard which requires prescribing in partnership with an authorised health practitioner under an active prescribing agreement.

The NMBA also agree with the condition that an eligible nurse prescriber cannot prescribe a pharmaceutical benefit that could not be prescribed by a PBS prescriber with whom the agreement is made. This is consistent with the guideline's requirement for the authorised health practitioner's prescribing scope of practice and area of practice to align with the designated registered nurse prescriber.

The NMBA are also in support of enabling the Professional Services Review (PSR) to review the PBS prescribing by authorised nurse prescribers as this is consistent with the oversight provided for other PBS prescribers.

We look forward to continuing to work with representatives from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to progress implementation of the designated registered nurse registration standard.

Should you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact Alley Peck, Executive Officer Nursing and Midwifery

Yours sincerely

**Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM**  
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia