

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Key Statements

Nurses have not only a professional but also a statutory obligation to maintain their competence to practice and maintain evidence of their continuing professional development (CPD) for their registration.

Nurses accept personal responsibility and accountability for obtaining and maintaining their continuing professional development. CPD is an interactive process by which nurses maintain, enhance and extend their knowledge, expertise throughout their career through both structured and unstructured learning activities which contribute directly to the competence of the nurse to practice in their chosen field within the profession.

Continuous self-assessment and identification of professional development needs are integral to the professional practice of nurses. Throughout their careers nurses must have access to programs from a variety of sources to meet their needs for professional development to maintain their competence in their chosen area/s of practice.

The nursing profession is guided by the nationally recognised Principles for the Assessment of National Competency Standards for Registered and Enrolled Nurses, developed by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (2002) and adopted by the Australian Health Professional Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in 2010 as the principles for assessment of competency.

RCNA supports the development of standards for professional development for providers of continuing professional development programs which should be established and monitored by the profession.

Providers of continuing professional development programs have a responsibility to regularly review and evaluate their performance in meeting the changing educational needs of nurses and in so doing, seek recognition of their programs through endorsement with relevant professional organisations.

Where affordable, continuous professional development opportunities are provided to nurses; and they are more likely to be motivated, feel valued and satisfied in the workplace.

[Link to Definition, Background, Rationale and other information, as required.](#)