

Date: 08/07/2026

## CDNM Welcomes PBS Prescribing Powers for RNs

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia and New Zealand) "CDNM" welcomes the Australian Government's landmark legislation enabling authorised Designated Registered Nurse Prescribers to prescribe eligible Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines for the first time, in partnership with an authorised health practitioner.

The reform, which aligns with recommendations from the Scope of Practice Review, will improve access to affordable medicines – particularly for people in rural, regional and remote communities, while strengthening multidisciplinary team-based models of care.

CDNM's Deputy Chair, Professor Ann Bonner, said the reform recognises the expertise of registered nurses who have completed postgraduate education on medicines and practice of prescribing. This highlights the importance of university education in enhancing the health of Australian communities.

"We are pleased that this significant milestone for the nursing profession will benefit patients through more immediate and accessible care. Nurses constitute the largest segment of the healthcare workforce. Expanding use of these well qualified professionals is key to improving healthcare availability."

"Universities have an essential role in preparing nurses with the knowledge, skills and clinical judgement required for safe and effective prescribing."

The legislation builds on the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (NMBA) *Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines – Designated Registered Nurse Prescriber* registration standard, which commenced on 30 September 2025 and creates new opportunities for experienced nurses to work to their full scope of practice while improving healthcare access for Australians.

With the first Designated Registered Nurse Prescribers already endorsed by the NMBA and more expected to graduate in the coming months, CDNM looks forward to supporting the successful implementation of this reform through high-quality nursing education.

### About CDNM

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) (CDNM) is the peak organisation representing universities and other higher education institutions that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand.

### Media Enquiries:

Chair, Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand)  
comms@cdnm.edu.au  
www.cdnm.edu.au/contact-us