



# Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

## What is a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner?

A nurse practitioner (NP) is an advanced practice nurse who meets the regulatory and professional requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and other relevant standards. NPs meeting these requirements are endorsed to practise within their scope under the legislatively protected title 'nurse practitioner'.<sup>1</sup>

## The role of the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP):

The NNP uses an expert knowledge base and an expanded level of clinical competence to assess, diagnose and provide therapeutic interventions for the safe, high-quality management of neonates. Care is provided in partnership with the multi-disciplinary team, with appropriate referral to other health care professionals.

NNPs in Australia work across tertiary, regional and retrieval sectors in a variety of successful models. They are an integral member of neonatal services, providing safe, effective, and quality care for neonates and their families.

career pathways to endorsement, and linking NNPs and candidates together in a mentorship framework.

## NNP SIG Goals:

- Establish a forum for information, education, support, advice and mentoring for NNPs/those working towards the role within Australia.
- Mentoring support for candidates
- NNP educational program and resource review (on request).
- Seek opportunities to advance NNPs professionally by engaging and liaising with education and resource providers
- Develop professional links to reduce professional isolation associated with single providers of a specialty role.
- Share resources to promote implementation of evidence into practice for the enhancement of neonatal care.

Nurse	Advocate	Practitioner	Autonomy	Education	Advanced Practice
Neonatal	Prescribe	Mentor	Leader	Knowledge	Experience
Teacher	Clinical Expert	Role model	Competence	Specialist	Team

## NNP SIG Statement of Purpose

To provide a collaborative network for current and future NNPs within the Australian context.

Priorities for the SIG are to support advanced neonatal clinical education, provide guidance for neonatal nursing clinicians interested in pursuing

## Membership

Membership is open to any nurse or midwife who is a current financial member of ACNN. Members may include those interested in, or currently undertaking a Master of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) or is endorsed / seeking endorsement as a NNP.

Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Inc.

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## How to become a neonatal nurse practitioner? The Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice

Capability in education, research and leadership are integral to the clinical practice of the nurse practitioner. NP standards of practice form the core of the nurse practitioner role. Professional development within these practice areas is a critical component of the nurse practitioner journey. Mentorship from an endorsed NNP is of great assistance to those interested in pursuing this pathway. Linking aspiring NNP candidates with a mentor is a key goal of the NNP SIG.

## Current requirements for Endorsement

On successful completion of the master's program, the applicant may seek endorsement by the NMBA, through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. More information is available on the [Nursing and Midwifery Board Australia website](#)

## SIG Committee

Current members of the NNP SIG are:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Ordinary members

Please contact us to join this special interest group by emailing: [nnpsig@acnn.org.au](mailto:nnpsig@acnn.org.au) or Scan the QR code for the NNP SIG webpage and more information.



## Further information / useful websites

- ACNN
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA)
- Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP)



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## References

1. Nurse practitioner standards for practice. (Effective from 1 March 2021). Nursing and Midwifery Board Australia
2. Registration standard: Endorsement as a nurse practitioner. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 1 June 2016.