



# Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

## What is a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner?

A nurse practitioner is an advanced practice nurse endorsed by the governing body (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia: NMBA) to practise within their scope under the legislatively protected title 'nurse practitioner'.<sup>1</sup>

## The role of the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner:

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

NNPs in Australia are growing in number, working across the tertiary, regional and retrieval sectors in a variety of successful models. They play an integral role in the provision of safe, effective, and quality care for neonates and their families.

## The ACNN NNP SIG:

Establish a forum for information, education, support, advice and mentoring specifically for NNPs and those working towards the role within Australia. Support candidates through forums and mentoring when requested.

Review educational programs and resources available to NNPs in Australia. Where appropriate the SIG will seek opportunities to liaise with and provide feedback to education and resource providers.

Actively promote a national curriculum for NNP education throughout Australia via consultation and liaison with the tertiary sector.

Develop professional links and reduce the isolation associated that can occur within a specialty role. Share resources and knowledge to facilitate 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

## Statement of Purpose

To provide a collaborative network for current and future neonatal nurse practitioners within the Australian context.

Priorities for the SIG are to support advanced neonatal clinical education, provide guidance for neonatal nursing clinicians interested in pursuing the NNP career pathway, and link NNPs and candidates together in a mentorship framework.

## 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 an NNP.

[Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Inc.](http://www.acnn.org.au)

PO Box 148 Camperdown NSW Australia 1450 | p: 0456 645 261 | e: [nnpsig@acnn.org.au](mailto:nnpsig@acnn.org.au)

[www.acnn.org.au](http://www.acnn.org.au)

**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. For this reason, 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](http://www.nmba.gov.au)

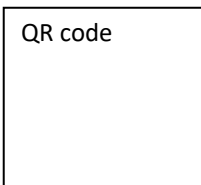
**SIG Committee**

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.

QR code



**Further information / useful websites**

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



Photo published with permission

**References**

1. Nurse practitioner standards for practice. (Effective from 1 January 2014). Nursing and Midwifery Board Australia
2. Registration standard: Endorsement as a nurse practitioner. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 1 June 2016.