



Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control

Position Statement

Specialist Recognition and the Nursing Profession¹

Background

In 2015, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) released the *Specialist recognition and the nursing profession* position statement based on the findings of a project exploring the need for registration of specialty practice within the nursing profession.

The position of the NMBA with respect to registration of specialty practice in nursing is that¹:

- *a variety of mechanisms are employed internationally to recognise and regulate specialty practice including credentialing processes;*
- *specialist organisations representing specialty nursing groups in Australia have developed sound governance processes for specialty practice;*
- *these provide an effective means of acknowledging advanced practice; and,*
- *they may be recognised by employers and the health industry at large.¹*

Position of College

The Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) will continue to provide recognition of specialty practice in infection prevention and control to members through the well-established ACIPC credentialling process.

In doing so, ACIPC reaffirms its position that credentialling in infection prevention and control:

- *designates specialist expertise,*
- *informs health consumers,*
- *establishes a national standard of practice,*
- *promotes career development; and,*
- *identifies a community of experts.²*

¹ Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, February 2015. Position statement: Specialist recognition and the nursing profession. <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Position-Statements/Specialist-recognition.aspx> accessed 27/5/15.

² Macbeth, D., 1999. Pathway to credentials. *Australian infection Control*, 4(4), pp 21-23.