



Interim Position Statement

Midwifery Scope of Practice in Australia

Issued: August 2023

The Australian College of Midwives interim position on midwifery scope of practice in Australia

The Australian College of Midwives (ACM) is the **national peak professional body for midwives in Australia** and supports continuous improvement of the midwifery profession. ACM supports midwives being enabled to work to their full scope as outlined by the ICM Definition of the Midwife, ICM Core Competencies for the Midwife^{1,2}. And Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Standards for Practice³.

The midwife is recognised as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwife's own responsibility and to provide care for the newborn and the infant. This care includes preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in mother and child, the accessing of medical care or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures.

The midwife has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for the woman, but also within the family and the community. This work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and may extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and child (family and maternal health).

A midwife may practise in any setting including the home, community, hospitals, clinics, or health units. (ICM 2017)¹

ACM is currently developing a full position statement on midwifery scope of practice in Australia. In the interim, we refer to the ICM Core Competencies for the Midwife¹ and the NMBA Fact Sheet – Scope of practice and capabilities of nurses and midwives⁴. ACM is committed to working with policymakers, government, health services, consumers and midwives toward addressing barriers which prevent midwives working to full scope.

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Retired position statement – ACM Scope of Practice for Midwives in Australia. 1st edition. (2016).

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The Australian College of Midwives acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live.

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References

1. International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). (2017). *International Definition of the Midwife*. Retrieved from <https://www.internationalmidwives.org/our-work/policy-and-practice/icm-definitions.html#:~:text=Scope%20of%20Practice%20of%20the%20Midwife&text=This%20care%20includes%20preventative%20measures,carrying%20out%20of%20emergency%20measures>.
2. International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). (2019). Essential competencies for midwifery practice. Retrieved from <https://www.internationalmidwives.org/our-work/policy-and-practice/essential-competencies-for-midwifery-practice.html>
3. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). (2023). *Midwife Standards for Practice*. Retrieved from <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/codes-guidelines-statements/professional-standards/midwife-standards-for-practice.aspx>
4. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). (2022). Fact sheet: Scope of practice and capabilities of nurses and midwives. Retrieved from <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/FAQ/Fact-sheet-scope-of-practice-and-capabilities-of-nurses-and-midwives.aspx>