

Australian Capital Territory

Health Professionals (ACT Nursing and Midwifery Board Standards Statements) Approval 2007 (No 1)

Notifiable Instrument NI2007-130

made under the

Health Professionals Regulation 2004, section 134 (Standards Statement)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the Health Professionals (ACT Nursing and Midwifery Board Standards Statements) Approval 2007 (No 1).

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 Standard Statements

In accordance with Regulation 134 (3) of the Health Professionals Regulation 2004 the ACT Nursing and Midwifery Board has approved the following Standards Statement.

Midwives in Private Practice

Robyn Staniforth
Deputy President

30 April 2007

STANDARDS STATEMENT 1

Midwives in Private Practice



**ACT Nursing and
Midwifery Board**

As the legal authority responsible to the Minister, the ACT Nursing and Midwifery Board will administer the Health Professionals Act 2004.

RATIONALE

The ACT Nursing and Midwifery Board acknowledges the right of consumers to seek professional midwifery services of privately practising midwives. These services, which are provided through a contractual arrangement with the client(s), are to be implemented in a manner that meets the Australian College of Midwives Incorporated (ACMI) Accreditation Guidelines for independently practising midwivesⁱ and in line with the ACMI Consultation and Referral Guidelines to achieve best practice outcomes for the clients.

SPHERE OF PRACTICE

The privately practising midwife shall practise according to the International Confederation of Midwives 'definition of a midwife'ⁱⁱ, and in accordance with the requirements as set out by the ACT Nursing and Midwifery Board (the Board), and show evidence of continuing practice within the last five years.

STANDARD

The privately practising midwife:

- has a responsibility to provide the highest possible standard of midwifery care to their clients in accordance with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) Competency Standards for Midwivesⁱⁱⁱ and in accordance with the ACMI Codes of Professional Conduct and Ethics;
- is registered as a midwife in accordance with the *Health Professionals Act 2004*^{iv} (the Act), and holds a current practising certificate in accordance with ACT legislation;
- shall meet the Maintaining Competence and Continuing Professional Development requirements as outlined in the *Health Professionals Regulation 2004*^v (the Regulation) and
- will inform their clients of their professional indemnity insurance status.

OUTCOME

The privately practising midwife:

- will provide safe and effective care to both mother and baby;
- shall maintain appropriate clinical records and documentation, relating to the case management and care provided throughout the contractual period when the client is under her/his management;
- will archive documentation for the mandated legislative period; and
- shall forward appropriate documentation, as required, to the Statistical Section of ACT Health and other legislated documentation, including the Births, Deaths and Marriages unit which operates within the ACT Registrar-General's Office.

STANDARDS STATEMENT 1

Midwives in Private Practice



**ACT Nursing and
Midwifery Board**

GUIDELINES

The ACMI Code of Practice, Code of Ethics, Accreditation Guidelines for Independently Practising Midwives, and the National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation & Referral are available from the National Office of the Australian College of Midwives, GPO Box 666, CANBERRA ACT 2601 or website at www.acmi.org.au.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council Competency Standards for Midwives, are available from the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council's website www.anmc.org.au.

Endorsed by Board: 2 March 2007

Review Date: March 2010

Board Deputy President	Signature	Date
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REFERENCES

- ⁱ Australian College of Midwives Incorporated (ACMI), (1993). Accreditation of the Independently practising Midwife, Canberra ACT, Australia.
- ⁱⁱ International Confederation of Midwives (2005). Definition of a midwife, www.internationalmidwives.org.
- ⁱⁱⁱ ANMC, (2006). National Competency Standards for the Midwife, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council, Canberra ACT, Australia.
- ^{iv} *Health Professionals Act 2004*, www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2004-38/default.asp.
- ^v *Health Professionals Regulation 2004*, www.legislation.act.gov.au/sl/2004-41/default.asp.