NATIONAL STANDARDS
OF PRACTICE FOR
MATERNAL, CHILD &
FAMILY HEALTH NURSES
IN AUSTRALIA

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With thanks to:
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Drivers for change

Differing jurisdictional:

- Standards/competencies
- Educational requirements
- Pay scales
- Role descriptions
- Mechanisms for quality and safety
- Outcomes for children

Drivers for change

- AHPRA/’loss’ of nursing specialisations
- Need for MCaFHN Nurse Practitioner pathway
- Increasing complexity of care
Design

Puddy and Wilkins (2001, p. 4) framework for thinking about evidence as applied to this project.
SUMMARY-PROJECT STAGES

Stage 1
• Scoping literature review (Fraser, Grant & Mannix 2014)
• Analysis all existing Australian standards documents (N=8)
• Qualitative study into the role of MCaFHN in Australia (Fraser, Grant & Mannix 2016).
• Synthesis of all materials into draft standards document

Stage 2
• Broad industry and community consultation via qualitative online survey - 452 responses
• Synthesis of responses into the draft standards document
• Restructure of draft standards based on revised standards for the Registered Nurse 2016

Stage 3
• Modified Delphi survey – 242 responses
• 97.8% consensus in the first round
Stage 1

**Primary Sources:**
- New South Wales n=3
- South Australia n=1
- Western Australia n=1
- Victoria n=1
- New Zealand n=1
- National - Paediatric and Child Health n=1

**19 Themes:**
1. Communication
2. Primary Health Care
3. Maternal Mental Health
4. Child Protection
5. Culturally Safe Practice

**5 Domains:**
1. Promoting health for children and families
2. Assessment and care planning for children and families in the community
3. Provision of health care for children and families in the community
4. Establishing therapeutic relationships with families
5. Professional Practice
4 Standards:

1. **Standard 1** Develop therapeutic relationships with families to improve outcomes for children (4 sub-statements)

2. **Standard 2** Promote health for children and families within a primary health care framework (5 sub-statements)

3. **Standard 3** Professional practice to improve health outcomes for children and families (2 sub-statements)

4. **Standard 4** Provision of health care for children and families in the community (5 sub-statements)

Stage 2

Question 1. Do the standards and cues in this section reflect your experience of what Maternal, Child and Family Health Nurses do in their role? Please comment.

Question 2. Are there any standards or cues in the first section that need changing? If so, which ones and how?

Any other comments?
Standard 1
Thinks critically and analyses nursing practice

Standard 2
Engages in therapeutic and professional relationships

Standard 3
Maintains the capability for practice

Standard 4
Comprehensively conducts assessments

Standard 5
Develops a plan for nursing practice

Standard 6
Provides safe, appropriate and responsive quality nursing practice

Standard 7
Evaluates outcomes to inform nursing practice

Registered Nurse Standards for Practice (NMBA 2016)
Stage 3

7 Standards:

Standard 1 A maternal, child and family health nurse thinks critically, develops and analyses maternal, child and family nursing practice (18 sub-statements)

Standard 2 A maternal, child and family health nurse engages in therapeutic and professional relationships (12 sub-statements)

Standard 3 A maternal, child and family health nurse maintains capacity for maternal, child and family health nursing practice and engages in lifelong learning (8 sub-statements)

Standard 4 A Maternal, Child and Family Health Nurse comprehensively conducts maternal, child and family nursing assessments (11 sub-statements)
Stage 3

7 Standards:

**Standard 5** A maternal, child and family health nurse develops a plan for nursing practice that promotes maternal, child and family health and wellbeing (9 sub-statements)

**Standard 6** Provides safe, appropriate and responsive quality maternal, child and family health nursing practice (27 sub-statements)

**Standard 7** A maternal, child and family health nurse evaluates maternal, child and family outcomes to inform nursing practice (6 sub-statements)

97.8% Consensus in first round
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NEXT STEPS…
FOR USE IN….

- Practice
- Education
- Human Resources
- Research
References:

Fraser, S., Grant, J. and Mannix, T.G. (2014). The role and experience of Child and Family Health Nurses in developed countries: A review of the literature. Neonatal, Paediatric and Child Health Nursing, 17(3) pp. 2-10. [Scopus] [Web Link]


Puddy, RW & Wilkins, N 2011, Understanding evidence part 1: Best available research evidence, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA.

Standards documents:
Australian Confederation of Paediatric and Child Health Nurses, 2006, Competencies for the Specialist Paediatric and Child Health Nurse.


Community Nurses Special Interest Group, Western Australia and Department of Health, 2001, Competency Standards for the Community Health Nurse.


South Australian Child and Family Health Service Clinical Nursing Services South, 2014, PEPE Competency Self-Assessment Tool.


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