

How do I know if the person providing my care is a nurse?

The Nurses Board provides information about all nurses on the register or roll. This information includes the nurse's full name, their status and qualifications. This information is available to the public via the NBSA Website on-line register/roll www.nursesboard.sa.gov.au or by contacting the Nurses Board directly on (08) 8223 9777.

Are care workers nurses?

No. Care Workers are not nurses and are not regulated under the *Nurses Act 1999*.

Care Workers are often referred to as personal care attendants, or have in the past been called nurse assistants. Care Workers work in a range of settings and sectors and may provide assistance with activities of daily living, personal care support. In some circumstances care workers may undertake some aspects of health care delegated by a registered nurse as part of a health assessment and care plan.

What is a Nurse?



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What is a Nurse?

A nurse is a person who is registered or enrolled under the specific Nurses Act of the state or territory in which they work. In South Australia nurses are registered or enrolled under the *Nurses Act 1999*. In South Australia there are two levels of nurses, those on the register and those on the roll. Nurses are part of a regulated profession accountable to the public for providing the highest standard of care by maintaining the highest professional standards of competence and conduct in nursing.

What is a Registered Nurse?

A registered nurse is a first level nurse who has completed an appropriate qualification, has met the requirements determined by the Board for the purpose of registration and is registered under the *Nurses Act 1999*. A registered nurse is authorised to practise without supervision and is accountable and responsible for the provision of nursing care. The registered nurse is further accountable for assessment and decisions in relation to delegation and supervision (both direct and indirect) to enrolled nurses. The registered nurse cannot delegate this accountability.

In South Australia nurses on the register include registered general nurses, midwives, mental health nurses and nurse practitioners.

What is an enrolled nurse?

The enrolled nurse is a second level nurse who has completed an appropriate qualification, has met the requirements determined by the Board for the purpose of enrolment and is enrolled under the *Nurses Act 1999*. An enrolled nurse practices under the supervision (direct or indirect) of a registered nurse. The enrolled nurse retains responsibility for their actions and remains accountable to the registered nurse for all delegated decisions and functions.

In South Australia enrolled nurses who meet specific requirements may apply to the Board for authorisation to work without the supervision of a registered nurse.

How are nurses regulated?

The Nurses Board of South Australia regulates the practice of nursing in the public interest and determines the scope of nursing practice. The Nurses Board of South Australia regulates nurses by determining their scope of practice, approving courses that lead to a person being eligible to become a nurse, setting the requirements for a person to register or enrol as a nurse, endorsing standards and codes of conduct and defining and protecting the title of 'nurse' so that the public are assured that a nurse has met these requirements and standards.

Nurses who do not maintain the standards and codes of conduct expected of the profession can be reported to the Board. The Board will investigate the fitness of the person to practice as a nurse and may place restrictions or limitations on their registration/enrolment or may remove them from the register/roll.

What standards do nurses have to meet?

Nurses are regulated by the Nurses Board to ensure that they have met minimum competency standards. Nursing is a profession and as such, nurses are also expected to be self regulating and continually assessing their own competence. Registered nurses and enrolled nurses are required to meet minimum competency standards and comply with a number of codes of practice. Nurses are also required to assess their own practice against a diverse range of professional standards, codes, guidelines and protocols. The minimum standards for all nurses in Australia are the Australian Nursing Council (ANC) Competency Standards for Registered and Enrolled Nurses and the Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.

What is the register and the roll?

The *Nurses Act 1999* established a single register which records all persons that have met the entry to practice requirements for the registered nurse. There are parts on the register for recording registered general nurses, midwives, mental health nurses and nurse practitioners. The Board may also establish a part of the register for other areas of specialist practice recognised by the Board.

The roll records all persons that have met the entry to practice requirements for the enrolled nurse. The enrolled nurse is a second level nurse who works under the direction and supervision of the registered nurse.