

The Enrolled Nurse Professional Association of NSW

Position Statement (Endorsed) Enrolled Nurses working in specialised units Released March 2006

Background

In NSW there are two levels of regulated nurse, those being (1) the Registered Nurse and (2) the Enrolled Nurse.

Regulation in healthcare provides a means of ensuring primarily, safety of the public in all care situations and secondly the ability to accredit and monitor education programs from any provider.

The Enrolled Nurse undergoes comprehensive training, currently within a college environment and modules of learning include anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and pharmacokinetics. Critical thinking, evaluation and assessment are embroiled into training and further into post graduate experience.

ENPA believe that regulation of qualified nurses of both levels affects positively on patient outcomes including the care given by enrolled nurses in utilising their skills, knowledge and judgement coinciding with appropriate experience, support and ongoing education.

Enrolled Nurses work under the supervision and direction[§] of a Registered Nurse and at all times remain accountable for their own actions in practice.

ENPA NSW Position Statement

The Enrolled Nurse Professional Association supports the inclusion or further retention of Enrolled Nurses (dependant on post graduate experience and education), in specialised units such as, but not limited to:

- Intensive Care Units
- Coronary Care Units
- High Dependency Units
- Maternity Units (including labour and birthing units)
- Special Care Nurseries
- Mental Health Facilities
- Intensive Psychiatric Care Units
- Peri-operative Units (including scrub, recovery and anaesthetics)
- Community Health

We believe that consideration of employment for enrolled nurses in these areas should be based upon merit and also:

- Certified medication management and endorsement
- Ongoing education being provided and attained in the area of specialty on a continuing basis
- Clinical Nurse Educators being available to educate and mentor the enrolled nurse alongside their Registered Nurse colleagues for an initial induction period and beyond

[§] This does not necessarily mean close supervision

The Enrolled Nurse Professional Association of NSW endorses the use of enrolled nurses in specialty units subject to its position statement, with consideration to patient safety, ongoing education and an appropriately qualified skill mix within the area.