

Terms of Reference

National Enrolled Nursing Advisory Council (NENAC)

Last updated: September 2025

Purpose

The National Enrolled Nursing Advisory Council (NENAC) is the peak body representing Australia's public tertiary education sector across all states and territories that offer programs in nursing, health, community, and aged care.

NENAC serves as the voice of vocational education and training (VET) in enrolled nursing, health, community, and aged care. It provides nationally coordinated strategic commentary and expert advice to regulatory and professional nursing and midwifery organisations on policy and strategic matters related to enrolled nursing. This includes programs that transition into or out of enrolled nursing pathways.

NENAC advocates for quality education across the enrolled nursing and health workforce, promoting the public profile of enrolled nursing education. Members collaborate in a collegial environment to share insights, address emerging issues, and advance educational excellence in enrolled nursing, health, community, and aged care. The Council fosters opportunities to benchmark practices and share resources across institutions.

Terms of Reference

1. Engage, collaborate and provide strategic advice and recommendations on:
 - key policy issues relating to enrolled nursing
 - issues related to regulation, accreditation and education of enrolled nurses
 - changes within the public tertiary education sector that impact on nursing education
 - workforce issues impacting health, community and aged care sectors
 - research and best practice in enrolled nursing, health, community and aged care
 - courses and pathways that transition into and from enrolled nurse programs
2. Provide strategic advice to regulatory, accreditation and professional bodies, including but not limited to Chief Nurse, ANMAC, AHPRA, NMBA, ACN, ANMF, CATSINaM, APNA, ASQA, NNMEAN, CDNM, DEEWR, LASA, ACSA, NMRSG, CoNNMO, HSSO, Early Educators, Health and Human Services Industry Cluster etc.
3. Consult and collaborate with HumanAbility, the Jobs and Skills Council for HLT qualifications. maintain representation in relevant industry and technical advisory committees.
4. Consult and engage with local state/territory governments and State and Commonwealth chief nurses

5. Inform and contribute to national VET reform agendas, to ensure a strong and nationally united voice, including the review and development of relevant training packages
6. Support industry to connect and engage with public tertiary education providers and VET pathways and programs, initiatives and events to assist with workforce shortages and demands
7. Provide responses, comments, recommendations on reports, reviews of health, community and aged care sectors
8. Raise the profile of enrolled nurses in the health, community and aged care workforce
9. Provide a forum for discussion regarding issues which affect enrolled nursing, health, community and aged care education and workforce
10. Provide a national platform for collaboration, benchmarking, resource and information sharing across and within jurisdictions to enable best practice teaching and learning practices
11. Receive reports from members who are representing NENAC or TDA on committees and to provide those members with feedback or a collective view on matters raised.

Membership

Public tertiary education provider representation from all states and territories in Australia. NENAC Members will ideally be registered nurses with leadership or management of enrolled nurse courses, to enable contribution to strategic discussions on issues impacting health and nursing. Members should have decision making capacity to enable progress of agreed actions. A representative with extensive knowledge of enrolled nursing may be appointed to act in an advisory capacity to the Council.

Meetings

- NENAC will meet 6 weekly and ad hoc as required.
- A Chair and Deputy Chair will be appointed by the network, to be reviewed every two (2) years.
- The group will meet through video conferencing and be supported administratively by TDA.
- Members can send a proxy in their absence.
- Members will liaise with relevant persons/organisations as required.
- A summary of outcomes, decisions and actions will be tabled, and decisions made by majority agreement.

Quorum

A quorum for the meeting shall consist of half the members, plus one.