

FACT SHEET: Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Coverage

Why is it required?

All nurses and midwives are accountable for their professional practice and are required to have Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) both to meet the PII standard and to comply with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009. Joining the NPAQ is the cheapest and easiest way to be covered and have peace of mind that you are complying with your professional obligations under the National Law.

Who checks that you have PII and what are the consequences if you don't have it?

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) carries out random audits of nurse's compliance with the standard. If you have been untruthful in your renewal and have been found to be practising without PII you may be subject to disciplinary action by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) and may have your registration cancelled.

The NPAQ PII Policy

The Policy covers you Australia wide for:

- \$10 million up to an aggregate of \$60 million sum insured;
- Unlimited retroactive cover;
- Run-off cover for a period of 84 months.

Who is eligible to be covered under the NPAQ member PII Policy?

You must be:

- a financial member or a financial affiliate member, and maintain that status whilst you are working;
- a non-working member or affiliate who is registered with NPAQ in that capacity;
- a student nurse registered with NPAQ. (Students are covered for the entire period of their studies including whilst doing clinical placements as a student nurse);
- an Honorary Life Member of the NPAQ.

Who does the NPAQ member PII Policy cover?

- registered and enrolled employee nurses and midwives (**important restrictions on midwives doing birthing**)
- ancillary and related services to the health industry - care workers, assistants in nursing, administration and orderlies
- paramedics and ambulance officers
- dental nurses pharmacists
- allied health professionals - physiotherapist, podiatrists, psychologists
- alternative or natural therapists - acupuncture, aromatherapy, naturopathy, massage and reflexology
- training, education and voluntary work in nursing

Who is not covered?

- Any member or affiliate who is **not** an employee. **If you are working as an independent contractor you are not covered for any work done in that capacity.** If you are also an employee for part of your working week, then you will only be covered for that part of your week, but not for the time you are working as a contractor.
- Any nurse or affiliate working in the USA or Canada.
- **Midwives doing birthing work, including terminations.** (Midwives not working in birthing suites are covered for all duties other than birthing.)
- Radiographers and sonographers.

What is covered?

- Civil liability for loss arising from any negligence act, error or omission.
- Where you are summoned to give evidence before a coronial inquest and you require legal representation.
- Defamation claims including accusations of inappropriate cultural safety practice.
- Good Samaritan acts where a nurse voluntarily renders nursing, life saving or life extending services at the scene of a medical emergency or whilst doing voluntary community service.

What is not covered?

- Criminal offences are not covered, nor are claims arising from dishonest, fraudulent or malicious breach of duty.
- Claims from any un-financial member unless you have registered with us as having ceased practice. In that case the run-off cover will continue for another 84 months (seven years). Non-working members who have remained registered with us are still covered.
- Claims not notified to us in the insurance period in which the member became aware of the circumstances.

Does the member or affiliate have to pay any excess on a claim under the policy?

- **No.** Since 2016, the NPAQ has paid all excesses on all claims so ***no claimant (member or affiliate) has to pay any excess in the event of a claim.***