



# Victoria Government Gazette

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## SECRETARY APPROVAL

### SECRETARY APPROVAL OF APPROVED REGISTERED NURSES CLASS: RURAL AND ISOLATED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE DRUGS, POISONS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGULATIONS 2017

Regulations 159C, 161A, 161B and 161C

January 2022

#### APPROVED REGISTERED NURSES

For the purposes of the definition approved registered nurse provided in regulation 5 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 ('the Regulations'), regulation 159C of the Regulations authorises the Secretary to approve a class of registered nurse.

For the purposes of this approval, the class of approved registered nurse, to be known as the class titled rural and isolated practice registered nurse, is the class of nurses who meet the following criteria:

#### Competence, education and experience

1. The class includes nurses:
  - a. who are registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia as a registered nurse; and
  - b. who are assessed by their employer as being competent to obtain, possess, sell, supply and administer Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 poisons in accordance with the Health Management Protocols within the Primary Clinical Care Manual that is current at the time; and
  - c. who, since 1 July 2010, have successfully completed one of the following two courses:
    - i. the Rural and Isolated Practice (Scheduled Medicines) Registered Nurse Course at Queensland Health's the Cunningham Centre, or
    - ii. the Graduate Certificate of Health (Scheduled Medicines) at the University of Southern Queensland; and
  - d. who have spent a minimum of one year at an average of two shifts per week working as a registered nurse, in one of the following settings:
    - i. urgent, emergency or critical care setting, or
    - ii. rural or rural isolated practice setting<sup>1</sup>; and
  - e. who maintain appropriate records as evidence of these competence, education and experience requirements.
2. Where the registration of a registered nurse was endorsed as qualified to obtain, supply and administer Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines for nursing practice under the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses (rural and isolated practice) as at 1 February 2022, the nurse is included in the class titled rural and isolated practice registered nurse if the nurse complies with the requirements set out in paragraphs 1a, 1b and 1e above. A nurse with the relevant endorsement as at 1 February 2022 is not required to comply with the education and experience requirements set out in paragraphs 1c and 1d above.

<sup>1</sup> That is, within a Monash Modified Model Category MM3 – MM7 (inclusive) location. See the Monash Modified Model, as maintained by the Commonwealth Department of Health: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/modified-monash-model>

**The locations at which an approved registered nurse practises**

3. In addition to meeting the competence, education and experience requirements set out above, to be included in the class a nurse must be employed or engaged at:
- the urgent care setting at a rural health service that is listed in Schedule 1;
  - a non-government organisation that is listed in Schedule 1; or
  - the onsite urgent care and emergency stabilisation areas of a bush nursing centre or a bush nursing hospital that is listed in Schedule 1.

**APPROVED POISONS**

Regulations 161A, 161B and 161C of the Regulations authorise approved registered nurses to obtain, possess, sell, supply and administer Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 poisons that have been approved by the Secretary.

**The poison or class of poisons an approved registered nurse who is a member of the class rural and isolated practice registered nurse may obtain, possess, sell, supply and administer**

Approved registered nurses who are members of the class rural and isolated practice registered nurse are authorised to obtain, possess, sell, supply and administer Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 poisons listed in the Health Management Protocols in the Primary Clinical Care Manual that is current at the time, as stated as able to be administered or supplied by a Rural and Isolated Practice Registered Nurse (RIPRN).

Pursuant to subregulations 161A(2), 161B(2) and 161C(2), I consider that this approval is necessary for the provision of health services, that sections 13 and 14A of the **Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981** do not apply, and that it is within the competence of an approved registered nurse to obtain, possess, sell, supply and administer the poisons without the supervision or instruction of a registered medical practitioner or nurse practitioner.

**Approved conditions**

The following conditions are necessary for the proper obtaining, possessing, selling, supplying and administering of the Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 poisons by an approved registered nurse who is a member of the class rural and isolated practice registered nurse:

- The approved registered nurse appears in the list of approved registered nurses as competent and qualified to obtain, possess, sell, supply or administer Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 poisons that is maintained by the health service at which they are located.
- The approved registered nurse only obtains, possesses, sells, supplies and administers the Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 poisons in the performance of their duties as a rural and isolated practice registered nurse.
- The approved registered nurse is able to obtain clinical assistance from a registered medical practitioner or nurse practitioner if it is necessary.
- The approved registered nurse obtains, possesses, sells, supplies and administers only the Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 poisons obtained under the health services permit held by the health service at which they are located.

Dated 7 January 2022

STEFAN TULLOCH  
Acting Chief Officer,  
Medicines and Poisons Regulation,  
Delegate of the Secretary, Department of Health

**Schedule 1 – Locations at which a registered nurse may  
practise as an approved registered nurse**

<b>Health Services' Urgent Care Centres</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Alexandra District Hospital	Alexandra
Alpine Health	Myrtleford
Alpine Health	Bright
Alpine Health	Mt Beauty
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service	Bairnsdale
Bass Coast Regional Health	Wonthaggi
Beaufort and Skipton Health Service	Beaufort
Beaufort and Skipton Health Service	Skipton
Beechworth Health Service	Beechworth
Benalla Health	Benalla
Boort District Health	Boort
Casterton Memorial Hospital	Casterton
Castlemaine Health	Castlemaine
Central Highlands Rural Health	Daylesford
Central Highlands Rural Health	Creswick
Central Highlands Rural Health	Kyneton
Central Gippsland Health Service	Maffra
Cohuna District Hospital	Cohuna
Colac Area Health	Colac
Djerriwarrh Health Services	Bacchus Marsh
East Grampians Health Service	Ararat
East Grampians Health Service	Willaura
East Wimmera Health Service	St Arnaud
East Wimmera Health Service	Birchip
East Wimmera Health Service	Charlton
East Wimmera Health Service	Donald
East Wimmera Health Service	Wycheproof
Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital	Edenhope
Gippsland Southern Health Service	Leongatha
Gippsland Southern Health Service	Korumburra
Great Ocean Road Health	Apollo Bay
Great Ocean Road Health	Lorne
Heathcote Health	Heathcote
Hesse Rural Health Service	Winchelsea
Heywood Rural Health	Heywood
Inglewood and Districts Health Service	Inglewood

<b>Health Services' Urgent Care Centres</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Kerang District Health	Kerang
Kilmore and District Hospital	Kilmore
Kooweerup Regional Health Service	Kooweerup
Kyabram District Health Service	Kyabram
Maldon Hospital	Maldon
Mallee Track Health and Community Service	Ouyen
Mallee Track Health and Community Service	Sea Lake
Mansfield District Hospital	Mansfield
Maryborough District Health Service	Maryborough
Maryborough District Health Service	Dunolly
Moyne Health Services	Port Fairy
NCN Health	Cobram
NCN Health	Nathalia
NCN Health	Numurkah
Omeo District Health	Omeo
Orbost Regional Health	Orbost
Portland District Health	Portland
Robinvale District Health Services	Robinvale
Robinvale District Health Services	Manangatang
Rochester and Elmore District Health Service	Rochester
Rural Northwest Health	Warracknabeal
Rural Northwest Health	Hopetoun
Seymour Health	Seymour
South Gippsland Hospital	Foster
South West Healthcare	Camperdown
Stawell Regional Health	Stawell
Tallangatta Health Service	Tallangatta
Terang and Mortlake Health Service	Mortlake
Terang and Mortlake Health Service	Terang
Timboon and District Health Care Service	Timboon
Upper Murray Health and Community Services	Corryong
Western District Health Service	Penshurst
Western District Health Service	Coleraine
West Wimmera Health Service	Nhill
West Wimmera Health Service	Jeparit
West Wimmera Health Service	Kaniva
West Wimmera Health Service	Rainbow
West Wimmera Health Service	Rupanyup

<b>Health Services' Urgent Care Centres</b>	<b>Campus</b>
Wimmera Health Care Group	Dimboola
Yarram and District Health Service	Yarram
Yarrawonga Health	Yarrawonga
Yea and District Memorial Hospital	Yea

<b>Non-government Organisation</b>
Cobden District Health Services

<b>Bush Nursing Hospitals</b>
Ballan District Health and Care
Euroa Health
Heyfield Hospital Incorporated
Nagambie HealthCare
Neerim District Health Service

<b>Bush Nursing Centres</b>
Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre Inc.
The Buchan Bush Nursing Association Inc.
Cann Valley Bush Nursing Centre Inc.
Dargo Bush Nursing Centre
Dartmoor and District Bush Nursing Centre Inc.
Dingee Bush Nursing Centre Inc.
Elmhurst Bush Nursing Centre
Ensay Bush Nursing Centre
Gelantipy District Bush Nursing Centre Inc.
Harrow Bush Nursing Centre
Lake Bolac Bush Nursing Centre
Lockington and District Bush Nursing Centre Inc.
Swifts Creek Bush Nursing Centre
Walwa Bush Nursing Centre Incorporated
Woomelang and District Bush Nursing Centre

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