



australian nursing federation

anf policy

anf branch cross border and interstate agreement

It is the policy of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. Nurses, midwives and other people eligible for ANF membership working in more than one state or territory should take out membership with the ANF Branch in the state or territory where they are employed for the majority of the time (primary Branch).
2. Where a Branch is notified that a member is working in more than one State or Territory, a copy of their completed membership form should be forwarded by the primary Branch to the other ANF Branch in which the member is working (secondary Branch) with a request that the membership be recognised and the member offered services as required.
3. Voting rights and other rights of membership are retained by the primary Branch where there is financial membership.
4. Such members would appear on the data base as financial members of the primary Branch only.
5. Any industrial or professional service provided by the secondary Branch should be done in consultation with the primary Branch.
6. Members requiring assistance should in the first instance contact the Branch in the state or territory where they have primary membership. The primary Branch may facilitate resolution of the matter in collaboration with the secondary Branch, or request that the secondary Branch resolve the matter. Prior to any expenses being incurred (eg legal expenses), an agreement should be reached between the primary and secondary Branches as to how these costs will be met.
7. Members accepting short employment contracts (ie 12 weeks or more) where work takes place on a continuous basis in a secondary state or territory should transfer their membership for the duration of the contract.
8. Individual arrangements may be made when members undertake regular but short (ie 12 weeks or less) employment contracts between two states or territories. Members should notify the Branch in the state or territory where they have primary membership and request that consideration be given to an arrangement between the two Branches that allows them to remain a member of the primary Branch but seek professional or industrial advice, should the need arise, from the secondary Branch in the state or territory in which they are working for a short period of time. Prior to any expenses being incurred (eg legal expenses), an agreement should be reached between the primary and secondary Branches as to how these costs will be met.

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9. Nurses or midwives involved in providing nursing or midwifery care using technology commonly known as telehealth¹ or telenursing should be members in the state or territory in which they are employed².
10. Where an issue or problem arises in another state or territory where the patient/client is based when receiving nursing or midwifery care using a telehealth or telenursing model then the Branch where membership is held may need to contact the other Branch for assistance and advice (eg about legislation that applies in that state or territory).
11. Students who are employed in positions eligible for ANF membership should apply for membership in the state or territory in which they are working for the majority of the time.
12. Students who are not employed in positions eligible for ANF membership should apply for membership in the state or territory in which their education provider is based.
13. Where clinical education is undertaken in a state or territory where the nursing student is not a member, the primary Branch should facilitate assistance from the education provider in conjunction with the secondary Branch where the issue or problem arose. The education provider has responsibility for students on clinical placement (eg workers' compensation, common law and professional indemnity). Prior to any expenses being incurred (eg legal expenses), an agreement should be reached between the primary and secondary Branches as to how these costs will be met.
14. Members considering working in more than one state or territory should contact their primary Branch to ascertain if insurance policies offered by the primary Branch to members (eg professional indemnity or legal expenses insurance) remain accessible to a member working in another state or territory.

Adopted by federal council October 1997
Reviewed and re-endorsed August 2007

¹ See ANMC guideline on telenursing published in 2003 and available on www.anmc.org.au.

² Nurses should request advice from their regulatory authority as it may be necessary to be registered in more than one state or territory. Nurses should discuss their regulatory requirements with their employer and their regulatory authority as a cross border waiver of fees may be granted (see the ANMC position on cross border waiver of fees www.anc.org.au). Nurses should also seek advice about their professional indemnity insurance status in relation to telenursing.

* Document may require further review once the national register for nurses is implemented across all States and Territories.