

## NURSES AND MIDWIVES AMENDMENT BILL

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

THE main purpose of this Bill is to make alterations in the minimum ages at which midwives, nurses, maternity nurses, male nurses, psychiatric nurses, and nursing aids may be registered under the Nurses and Midwives Act 1945, and also to authorise the inclusion of maternity training in the nursing course.

*Clause 2:* Under section 16 of the principal Act, the minimum age for the registration of any person except a nursing aid is twenty-one; and the minimum age for registration as a nursing aid is nineteen. This clause substitutes a new section 16. *Subsection (1)* fixes a minimum age of twenty-two for registration as a midwife. *Subsection (2)* fixes a minimum age of twenty for registration as a nurse, a maternity nurse, a male nurse, or a psychiatric nurse. *Subsection (3)* fixes a minimum age of eighteen years and six months for registration as a nursing aid. *Subsection (4)* merely re-enacts the provisions of the present section 16 (3), requiring every applicant for registration to be of good character and reputation.

*Clause 3:* The new section inserted by this clause authorises the inclusion in the nursing course of training in maternity nursing.

*Clause 4* makes it clear that the regulations prescribing a course of training in any kind of nursing may provide for credit to be given to a trainee who is already registered as a nurse of some other kind, or who has had some previous training.

*Clause 5* makes mere drafting amendments, consequential on the passing of the Health Act 1956 and the earlier abolition of the Mental Hospitals Department in 1947.



*Hon. Mr Hanan*

## NURSES AND MIDWIVES AMENDMENT

### ANALYSIS

Title	3. Inclusion of maternity training in nursing training
1. Short Title	4. Credit for previous training
2. Minimum age for registration	5. Miscellaneous amendments to principal Act

### A BILL INTITULED

#### **An Act to amend the Nurses and Midwives Act 1945**

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same,  
5 as follows:

1. **Short Title**—This Act may be cited as the Nurses and Midwives Amendment Act 1957, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Nurses and Midwives Act 1945 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

10 2. **Minimum age for registration**—The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing section sixteen, and substituting the following section:

“16. (1) No woman who is under the age of twenty-two years shall be registered as a midwife.

15 “(2) No person who is under the age of twenty years shall be registered as a nurse, or as a maternity nurse, or as a male nurse, or as a psychiatric nurse.

“(3) No woman who is under the age of eighteen years and six months shall be registered as a nursing aid.

20 “(4) A person shall not be registered under this Act unless in the opinion of the Board that person is of good character and reputation.”

**3. Inclusion of maternity training in nursing training**—The principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting, after section twenty-five, the following section:

“25A. For the purposes of qualification for registration under this Act—

“(a) As a nurse; or

“(b) Both as a nurse and as a maternity nurse—  
the prescribed course of training and instruction in nursing may include a course of training and instruction in maternity nursing; and references in this Act to the prescribed course of training and instruction shall be construed accordingly:

“Provided that in any such case the examinations in maternity nursing to be so prescribed shall be equivalent to those prescribed in any separate course of training and instruction in maternity nursing.”

**4. Credit for previous training**—Section twenty-seven of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:

“(6) Without limiting the generality of the power to make regulations conferred by section forty-one of this Act, it is hereby declared that regulations made under that section prescribing courses of training and instruction for the purposes of qualification for registration in any capacity under this Act may prescribe a shorter period or course of training or instruction, or provide for the modification of any period or course, in respect of persons or classes of persons seeking registration in that capacity who are registered in any other capacity, or who have undergone the whole or any part of any period or course of training or instruction.”

**5. Miscellaneous amendments to principal Act**—(1) Section four of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing paragraph (b) of subsection two, and substituting the following new paragraph:

“(b) The Director of the Division of Mental Hygiene of the Department of Health:”

(2) Section six of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection five the words “or of the Mental Hospitals Department, as the case may be”.