

NURSES AND MIDWIVES AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill contains miscellaneous amendments to the Nurses and Midwives Act 1945.

The Bill provides for the registration of community nurses. Already certain hospitals are conducting examinations and providing training for these nurses who will be women undergoing a shorter period of training than that required for other nurses. *Clauses 2, 3, and 4* make the amendments necessary for registration of community nurses. *Clause 4* permits the registration of nurses who pass the hospital examination before 1 April 1966.

Clause 5 permits the Nurses and Midwives Board to require an applicant for registration whose qualifications have been obtained overseas to undergo additional tests for the purpose of establishing that he has a reasonable command of the English language and to undergo such additional training and instruction as the Board may specify.

Clause 6 provides that community nurses may be registered after attaining the age of 18 years. The clause also permits the Board to refuse registration of any nurse if in its opinion the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be registered.

Clause 7 permits the Board to approve hospitals and institutions as training schools for community nurses.

Clause 8 extends the power to make regulations relating to examinations. It also enables the making of regulations providing for further training and examination enabling persons registered under the Act to obtain additional qualifications.

Hon. Mr McKay

NURSES AND MIDWIVES AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title	
1. Short Title	5. Registration of applicants from overseas
2. Interpretation	6. Limitations as to age and fitness
3. Registers	7. Approval of training schools
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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 1965, 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. **Interpretation**—Section 2 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after the definition of the term “Board”, the following definition:

“‘Community nurse’ means a woman registered as a community nurse under this Act.”

15 3. **Registers**—Subsection (1) of section 9 of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:
“(f) A Register of Community Nurses.”

*1957 Reprint, Vol. 11, p. 355
Amendments: 1960, No. 18; 1962, No. 90; 1963, No. 56

4. Qualifications of applicants for registration as community nurses—The principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting, after section 15 (as substituted by section 7 of the Nurses and Midwives Amendment Act 1960), the following section: 5

“15A. Except as provided in this Part of this Act, every woman shall be entitled to be registered under this Act as a community nurse who satisfied the Board,—

“(a) In the case of an applicant trained in New Zealand, that she has undergone the prescribed course of training and instruction and has passed the examination for community nurses prescribed pursuant to this Act, or that she has, before the first day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty-six, passed the examination for community nurses conducted by the authorities of a hospital in which she has been employed and trained as a community nurse in accordance with the course approved by the Board in that behalf: 10

“(b) In the case of an applicant trained elsewhere than in New Zealand, that she has undergone a course of training and passed an examination elsewhere than in New Zealand equivalent to the training and examination required in the case of community nurses trained in New Zealand.” 15 20 25

5. Registration of applicants from overseas—The principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting, after section 15A (as inserted by section 4 of this Act), the following section:

“15B. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, the Board may, if it thinks fit, require that an applicant for registration under this Act who has not undergone in New Zealand the appropriate course of training and passed the appropriate examinations prescribed under this Act shall, before registration, do all or any of the following things, namely,— 30 35

“(a) Satisfy the Board that he has a reasonable command of the English language:

“(b) Undergo such training and instruction, and pass such examinations, as the Board may specify. 40

“(2) Anything done and any qualifications obtained pursuant to a requirement of the Board under subsection (1) of this section shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any training or qualifications otherwise required by this
5 Act in order for the applicant to be registered in accordance with his application.”

6. Limitations as to age and fitness—Section 16 of the principal Act (as substituted by section 2 of the Nurses and Midwives Amendment Act 1957) is hereby further amended
10 as follows:

- (a) By adding to subsection (4) the words “or as a community nurse.”:
- (b) By adding to subsection (5) the words “and is a fit
15 and proper person to be registered in accordance with his application”.

7. Approval of training schools—Subsection (1) of section 24 of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “or nursing aids”, and substituting the words “nursing aids, or community nurses”.

8. Regulations—(1) Subsection (2) of section 41 of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing paragraph (c), and substituting the following paragraph:

“(c) Regulating the conduct of examinations under this Act, prescribing the subject-matter of any such
25 examinations, providing for the exemption of persons from any particular examination or any particular subject or subjects in any such examination, prescribing or authorising the Board to prescribe the number of occasions on which a person
30 may sit for any such examination or subject or subjects, prescribing the minimum ages, not exceeding in any case the appropriate minimum age referred to in section 16 of this Act, of candidates for examination under this Act, and prohibiting persons who are not, in the opinion of
35 the Board, of good character and reputation, and fit and proper persons to be registered in the class for which the examination is held, from sitting that examination.”

(2) Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section 41 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after the word “established”, the words “and carried on”.

(3) Subsection (2) of section 41 of the principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting, after paragraph (g), the following paragraph:

“(gg) Providing for the further training and examination of persons or any class of persons registered under this Act for the purpose of enabling them to obtain additional qualifications, and for the issue of diplomas or certificates to persons who undergo any such training or pass any such examination:”.

(4) Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section 41 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after the word “established”, the words “and carried on”.