

Enrolled Nurses - Take the next step in your career by becoming a member of the Nursing and Midwifery Council

Why should I become a Council member?

- Expanded career pathway
- Take on a leadership role
- Take control of your practice
- Understand the importance of regulation in safe practice
- Contribute to your profession
- Better support peers and registrants
- Bring improved expertise to your clinical practice
- Improve your communications skills

The Nursing and Midwifery Council of NSW is offering Enrolled Nurses an opportunity to develop their skills, become leaders and give back to the profession by becoming a Council member. The primary responsibility of the Council is to protect the public by managing complaints and notifications about the health, performance and conduct of registered/enrolled nurses, midwives and students practising in NSW.

You are encouraged to apply if you are:

- a registered Enrolled Nurse who is fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine (two doses) unless medically contraindicated
- interested in ensuring public safety and promoting good practice in the nursing profession
- available to attend monthly Council meetings, held in person or virtually.

Ms Karen Hay (Enrolled Nurse, Council member) and Ms Karyn Godier (Enrolled Nurse, previous Council member) say there are personal and professional incentives for Enrolled Nurses to become Council members.

“In keeping with my desire for new challenges in my career, but also wishing to be an advocate for a profession I love, a role in regulation was very appealing to me. Becoming a Council member is an ideal way for Enrolled Nurses to learn new skills and develop an understanding of the importance of regulation in safe practice. As I enter my seventh year as an Enrolled Nurse Council Member, I continue to learn and to enhance my clinical skills” shared Karyn.

Becoming a Council Member is not just about developing your skills but also about making a difference. Karen Hay shared her own inspiration for joining the Council.

“I wanted to give back to the profession, and by that, I mean ensuring that Enrolled Nurses had a voice in the decision-making processes. I wanted to do something in my career that was challenging, interesting, and made a difference. Every day, I have learnt something new from colleagues, which gives me the inspiration to explore a deeper understanding of what we do as nurses,” said Karen.

Council members are directly involved in reviewing complaints and making recommendations or decisions about nurses, amongst other duties.

“When assessing complaints, I gained a much stronger understanding of the standards that we must meet as ENs. Often, in the analysis of a complaint, I reflect upon my own practice to identify ways in which I could reduce my risk of potential error,” said Karyn.

“You develop a greater insight and awareness of your own decision-making in daily practice. Importantly, it allows you to take control of your practice and make decisions, together with your peers, which hold up to the standards for which we are accountable” added Karen.

The development ENs can experience as Council members is not just limited to clinical decision-making.

“By being given leadership roles such as chairing meetings and panels, my confidence and communication skills, both oral and written, have improved. The flow on effect has been that interactions in my clinical role have improved and I am more effective when collaborating with treating teams and my patients. I believe my documentation skills have been enhanced too. There is also the opportunity to “de-mystify” the role of regulation by sharing your new knowledge with co-workers and making a real difference in your own workplace,” said Karyn.

Karen expanded on the leadership role Council members carry out and the expanded career pathway.

“As a Council member, you engage on an equal footing with registered nurses and midwives who are leaders. You have an equal, valid and valuable voice in the regulation, implementation and review of the profession’s practises. Being a part of the regulatory system is transportable across divisions. It allows for another scope of practice that challenges the pre-conceived, and at times misconceived, perspective of what an Enrolled Nurse is and does,” said Karen.

We anticipate the term for the advertised Enrolled Nurse position to commence in July 2024, once approved by the Minister.

For more information about what it means to be a member of the Council and to apply, [click here](#).

Closing date: **9am, Friday 1 March 2024.**