



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTION

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Subject: **Provisional Registration of Nurses from Interstate in a Disaster**

Introduction

The Department of Health (DOH) has an obligation within Westplan Health to ensure that an efficient health response can be activated to meet health disaster and emergency management requirements.

Aim

The aim of this instruction is to provide policy in regard to the registration of nurses who enter the state in response to a disaster.

General

The Bali bombings of October 2002 and a subsequent National Counter-Terrorism Exercise, conducted jointly by the Governments of Western Australia and the Commonwealth of Australia in March 2003, identified the need for mutual recognition arrangements for interstate nurses who may be required to provide medical assistance to the States and Territories with little or no notice.

In the event of a significant disaster, when the resources of the DOH are insufficient to affectively meet the immediate requirements of a health response, formal arrangements have been established with the Nurses Board of Western Australia for provisional registration of nurses from interstate who may be required to provide assistance.

Procedures

- Depending on the situation, the State Health Disaster Coordinator (SHDC), may, after a request for additional nursing staff that cannot be resourced from within the DOH, advise the Director General (DG) that an approach be made to other States and Territories for nurses to assist with the disaster response.
- Upon agreement from the DG, the State Health Coordinator will contact the Executive Officer, State Emergency Management Committee (Executive Officer SEMC) advising of the need for additional nurses.
- The Executive Officer SEMC, after receiving approval from the State Emergency Coordinator, will submit the request to Emergency Management Australia (EMA) for coordination.

- EMA will advise both the Executive Officer SEMC and the DOH of approval and when assistance will be provided.
- The DG, DOH will provide to the Nurses Board of Western Australia, (the Board) by hand, fax or email, a list of names and nurse registration or ID numbers of interstate nurses requiring to be registered.
- The Board will verbally confirm the registration status with the relevant nurse regulatory authority.
- Under the Mutual Recognition Act 2001, the nurses will be deemed to be registered for a period of 28 days.
- The Board will provide written advice to the DG, by hand, fax or email, that the nurses have been deemed to be registered for a period of 28 days.
- Within 28 days, all nurses deemed to be registered will complete an application for registration with the Board.
- Upon receipt of written verification of the nurse registration status from the relevant nurse regulatory authority, the nurse will move from deemed registration to substantive registration.
- Any administrative costs associated with registering the nurses will be borne by the DOH.

Monitoring and Review

The Executive Officer, Disaster Preparedness and Management is responsible for the monitoring and review of this document on an annual basis.