

Council for Nurses and Midwives
Annual Report

Year 2011

Published by

The Council for Nurses and Midwives Malta

Introduction

This Council for Nurses and Midwives (CNM) Annual Report is the seventh of its kind and covers the period from 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2011. The report aims to give a brief account of the Council's performance.

1. Law

This Council is regulated by the Health Care Professions Act (HCPA) 2003.

2. Aim

The Council for Nurses and Midwives, Malta regulates the Nursing and Midwifery Professions in Malta. Its functions are defined in the Health Care Professions Act 2003.

One of the main functions of the CNM is to regulate the professions of both nurses and midwives as stipulated in the above-mentioned Act. The Council is also responsible for the upholding of high professional and educational standards for both professions. CNM is committed towards the attainment of excellence in the delivery of professional care by encouraging professional development amongst its registrants.

3. Structure of the Council

According to the Health Care Professions Act, 2003, The Council for Nurses and Midwives should be composed of thirteen members. All members are expected to attend and be involved in all Council and where applicable to its sub-committee meetings. The current Council has a two-year term of office, since the last elections were held in 2010. CNM has the responsibility of dealing with registrations, processing warrants, cases of misconduct and other day-to-day business, amongst other things. There is only one full-time employee who works at the Council's office, this being the Registrar.

The Prime Minister has appointed the following in August 2010:

President:	Dr. Patrick Valentino, B.A, LL.D
Licensed Midwife:	Dr. Rita Borg Xuereb, PhD, MSc., PQ Dip.Mid.Ed., Dip.Ed.,Adult., R.M., R.N
First level Registered Nurse:	Ms Claire Farrugia, M.Sc. Health Services Management, B.Sc (Hons) Nursing Studies
Lay Persons:	Ms. Antionette Borg Dr. Edward Curmi, B.Psych; Dott. Psicol(Padua); Dip (GPTIM)

The following were elected from amongst and by all nurses and midwives on 25th June 2010.

Nurses: Mr. Geoffrey Axiaq, M.Sc. Nursing (Manchester), B.Sc. Nursing, P.G.Dip. Nutrition & Dietetics.

Mr. Rudolph Cini,

Mr. Alexander Manche.

Second Level Registered Nurse: Mrs. Rita Briffa

Nurse whose name is entered in any of the special parts of the Register of Nurses:

Mr. Francis Ripard

Licensed Midwives: Ms. Thresanne Howland MSc (Midwifery) (Glasgow), BSc (Midwifery) (Glasgow), Dip (Midwifery), R.M

Ms. Astrid Zarb

Ex-officio (Director Nursing Services):

Mr. Jesmond Sharples, MBA. MMus (Comp) (London), BSc (Hons) (Nurs), Dip. Ger., FLCM, SRN

Registrar: Ms. Claudette Debono Farrugia, MLJ, B.A., M.A

3.1 Duration of Appointments

The President and the members of the Council appointed by the Prime Minister as well as the elected members hold their appointment for three years, this as stipulated by the Health Care Professions Act, 2003.

4. Meetings

Council meetings of an administrative disposition were held regularly. Amongst the subjects discussed, there were registration procedures for temporary first level nurses, the Green Paper of the EU directive 36/2005, complaints by the public and the nursing warrants.

4.1 Committees

According to the Health Care Professions Act, 2003, Section 22. (2), the Council “may set up committees for the purposes of enforcing professional and ethical standards applicable to nurses and midwives and generally in order to perform its functions”

The Council sat up committees. These committees meet whenever there is an exigency. They do the groundwork on behalf of the Council, and act under the powers delegated to them by the Council. The Registrar attends, assists and supports these committees.

The composition of the various committees is as follows:

Committee for vetting the applications for midwives

Dr. Rita Borg Xuereb, Ms. Astrid Zarb, Ms. Thresanne Howland, Advisory member Mr. Jesmond Sharples.

Committee for vetting the applications for nurses

Ms. Rita Briffa, Mr. Alex Manche', Claire Farrugia, Advisory member Mr. Jesmond Sharples.

Disciplinary Committee

Dr. Patrick Valentino, Dr. Edward Curmi, Mr. Rudolph Cini (in case of a nurse), Ms. Astrid Zarb (in case of a midwife)

Committee for the Administration of Funds

Ms. Claire Farrugia, Ms. Astrid Zarb, Ms. Antoinette Borg.

Language and Professional Proficiency Committee

Mr. Rudolph Cini, Ms. Thresanne Howland, Mr. Alex Manche, Ms Antoinette Borg

Legal Committee

Dr. Patrick Valentino, Mr. Jesmond Sharples, Mr. Rudolph Cini.

Committee for Live Register and Continuing Education

Dr. Rita Borg Xuereb, Ms. Claire Farrugia, Ms. Antoinette Borg

5. Fees

Levying of fees is in accordance with the Health Care Professions Act, 2003. With the issue of a legal notice and the setting up of a below the line account, this Council started collecting fees for new applications and other services that it offers.

According to legal notice 178/2008, the Council is collecting a €12 fee per application for EU member state citizens, €175 for non-member states citizens, and for change of details on registration certificates €5.

6. Registers

The registers lie at the heart of the Council's activity. No one can practice as a nurse and/or midwife in Malta without effective registration with the Council.

There are 6,434 registered nurses and midwives on CNM registers. 297 of which are midwives, 3,831 are registered on the First part of the register for nurses, 1,912 are registered on the second part of the register for nurses, 103 are registered in the special parts of the register for nurses, 269 in the temporary first part and 22 in the temporary second part of the register for nurses.

The Council has continued updating the data related to nurses and midwives who are registered with the Council. CNM tries as much as possible to keep track of its registrants' change of address and deceased registrants amongst others. This data apart from assisting the operations of CNM is a source for official statistics for various local entities as well as for WHO and the EU

EU Member States	Applied for Registration	Registered as 1st level Nurses - Males	Registered as 1st level nurses - Females	Registered as Temporary 1st level nurses - males	Registered as Temporary 1st level nurses - females	Registered as 2nd level nurses - males	Registered as 2nd level nurses - females	Registered as Temporary 2nd level nurses - males	Registered as Temporary 2nd level nurses - females	Registered in the Special Parts	Registered as Midwives
Malta	139	29	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Austria	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greece	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Portugal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romania	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Spain	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	10	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Non EU Member States											
Australia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bosnia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
China	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ghana	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	128	0	0	6	23	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pakistan	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philippines	41	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serbia	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ukraine	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
USA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	370	31	102	7	23	0	1	0	3	2	12

7. Health Care Appeals Committee

The appeals committee is established within the Health Care Professions Act, 2003. According to section 49(4) of the same Act, one has the right to appeal before the appeals committee within 20 days from a Council's decision. The Appeals Committee is completely independent from the Council for Nurses and Midwives.

During the year in question, this Council had (7) appeal cases in from of the Health Care Appeals Committee.

8. Complaints/ Allegations of misconduct

Anyone who has a serious concern about the conduct of a registrant or their fitness to practice due to ill health or of a person that is practicing as a midwife/nurse and who is not registered with the Council can report this to CNM. The Council will consider every complaint. This process is a fundamental tool in protecting the public from registrants whose professional practice falls below the standards required by them.

On receipt by CNM of a complaint on the conduct of a nurse and/or midwife, the complaint is forwarded to the council's president and members. This is then discussed during a Council meeting whereby the aforementioned considers the complaint and the necessary actions to be taken.

During the covering year the council received 1 complaint, which is still undergoing discussion

9. Conferences/Summits

The Council strives to keep up to date with new procedures and current practices of regulation. Therefore Council members and/or the Registrar attended to various conferences/seminars/summits organized by diverse entities.

Some being:

10. Administration

In 2011, 258 files were opened. There were numerous correspondences of all types and nature from different entities and the public. The Registrar filled/compiled various verification letters of current registration and good conduct for various registered nurses and midwives, who wished to get registration as nurses and/or midwives outside Malta.

Queries were dealt with either by phone, e-mail, letters or those who came in person to the CNM office.

The CNM website is continuously being updated.

11. The Internal Market Information (IMI) System

In order to comply with the 'mutual assistance provisions' in the European internal market legislation, administrators throughout the European Economic Area need to exchange information with their counterparts in other countries. The IMI System is an electronic tool designed to help in this cooperation. IMI consists of a computer application that is accessible via the Internet without the need to install any additional software. The system offers many benefits. In particular Member States are able to manage a single relationship with the network instead of 29 separate bilateral relationships, communicate using a clear working method by joint agreement, reduce language problems, save resources and time, and improve service quality through increased transparency and predictability

Local Authorities in IMI

Apart from the NIMIC, currently there are 36 competent authorities registered in the IMI system. These are classified as follows:

Module	LIMIC	DIMIC	CAs	Requests sent 2011	Requests received 2011
Services Directive	-	7	22	1	0
Professional Qualifications Directive	-	-	14	19	7
Posting of Workers Directive	1	-	-	-	1

Legend: LIMIC - Legislative Area IMI Coordinator DIMIC - Delegated IMI Coordinator CAs - Competent Authorities

Requests Sent by Maltese Authorities

The 2011 was a record year in terms for requests sent by Maltese Competent Authorities in the Professional Qualifications Module. In fact there were 19 requests sent to CAs in other Member States.

Figure 1: Table showing the use of IMI by Maltese competent authorities registered in IMI during the year 2011

The Council for Nurses and Midwives during the year in review received 1 request from Ireland and sent 6 requests to Competent Authorities in other Member States.