

## Rural and Isolated Practice Endorsed Nurse (RIPEN) update 1 August 2018

- The Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer (OCNMO) can assure rural and isolated communities it is committed to rural and isolated practice nurses (currently called RIPENs) being able to supply medications under protocol, and despite some necessary legislative changes they will have the same level of authority as is currently the case.
- While the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) initially indicated that they would discontinue the RIPEN endorsement by November 2018, they have since stated they will not discontinue it until alternate provisions are in place to ensure that RIPENs continue to meet the medicines need of Queenslanders who live in rural and isolated areas.
- This will mean that registered nurses who have completed the training currently recognised by the NMBA endorsement, will legally be able to carry out their roles in the same way as they currently do.
- OCNMO is working on an implementation plan for RIPEN transition, and over the coming months will undergo consultation with key stakeholders on the details of this plan.
- More information on the discontinuation of the RIPEN endorsement is available on the [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia fact sheet](#).

