

Course Descriptor

Clinical Leadership for Senior Nurses (OBA-CLN-2026)

Clinical Leadership for Senior Nurses

A self-directed continuing professional development programme for senior nurses - nurse unit managers, clinical nurse consultants and specialists, team leaders, after-hours coordinators, educators and facilitators, and any registered nurse who has just become responsible for other people's practice.

THE FINDING THIS COURSE IS BUILT ON

- Of the thirty-three actions in the NSQHS Clinical Governance Standard, THIRTY name the health service organisation, TWO name the governing body, and EXACTLY ONE names clinical leaders.
- Most senior nurses have never been told this, and most are carrying obligations that no document gives them.
- And the same course insists on what does not move: the decision to delegate, the monitoring, the evaluation, the notification duty and your own conduct.

What it covers

- **Module 00** Orientation: The Job You Were Given, and the Job That Is Actually Yours
- **Module 01** Clinical Governance: Thirty-Three Actions, and the One That Names You
- **Module 02** Accountability and Responsibility: Where the Line Actually Falls
- **Module 03** Scope of Practice and the Decision-Making Framework
- **Module 04** Delegation: Four Phases, and What You Keep
- **Module 05** Supervision: Direct, Indirect, and What It Is Not
- **Module 06** Speaking Up: the Culture, the Duty, and Both Halves of Just Culture
- **Module 07** When It Goes Wrong: Open Disclosure and the Word Sorry
- **Module 08** Mandatory Notifications: You Are the Non-Treating Practitioner
- **Module 09** Capability, Conduct, Health and System: Four Different Problems
- **Module 10** Your Local Map, What to Report, and Your Own Practice

What you will be able to do

- Read the subject of an NSQHS action before its obligation, and say who holds it
- State what a delegator remains accountable for - and what they are not accountable for
- Run the four phases of the NMBA guide to delegation decisions
- Test a supervision arrangement against both limbs of the definition of indirect supervision
- Identify which mandatory notification threshold applies to you, and what a reasonable belief requires
- Perform initial open disclosure before the facts are known, including the word sorry
- Sort a worrying event into a capability, conduct, health or system problem
- Report an organisational gap with the action number attached

Format and assessment

Delivery	Fully self-directed and online. No scheduled classes, no placement
Duration	9.0 CPD hours, measured from the content
Assessment	Five case studies, and 60 items at 80% with 2 attempts
Certificate	Issued on completion, stating the measured CPD hours
Currency	Verified 22/09/2026

What this programme is not

THIS IS NOT A MANAGEMENT QUALIFICATION, AND IT IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE. It does not make you a nurse unit manager, it carries no credit towards a postgraduate award, and it does not authorise you to conduct a disciplinary process, an investigation or a performance review - those follow your employer's policy and your industrial instrument, neither of which this programme has seen. It is professional development in the regulatory and governance obligations that attach to a senior nursing role: what clinical governance requires and of whom, how delegation and supervision actually work under the NMBA framework, when a mandatory notification is triggered, and what open disclosure is.

ONE THING TO CHECK THIS WEEK, WHETHER OR NOT YOU ENROL

- The Australian Open Disclosure Framework was REVISED AND RELEASED IN JUNE 2026, replacing the 2014 edition, and it now applies across ALL healthcare settings.
- NSQHS Action 1.12 requires a health service organisation to use an open disclosure program CONSISTENT WITH that Framework.
- So: when was your service's open disclosure policy last reviewed, and which edition does it cite? It takes about ten minutes to find out.

SUPPORT - FOR YOU

- Nurse & Midwife Support - 1800 667 877. 24 hours, seven days. Free and confidential, for nurses, midwives and students - including if you are the person who had to make a notification, the person one was made about, or the person who was involved in an adverse event.
- Lifeline - 13 11 14. 24 hours, seven days. National crisis support.
- You may stop this programme at any point and come back. Nothing is timed and there is no penalty.

SCOPE, CURRENCY AND THE LIMIT OF THIS PROGRAMME

- This programme is professional development. It explains the NSQHS Clinical Governance Standard, the NMBA decision-making framework and professional standards, the Ahpra and National Boards guidelines on mandatory notifications, and the Australian Open Disclosure Framework; it does not replace them, and IT IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE. It cannot tell you whether a particular set of facts meets a notification threshold, what a regulator, tribunal or coroner would decide in your case, or what your jurisdiction's apology legislation protects. Those are questions for Ahpra, your professional indemnity insurer, your union or a lawyer. Your employer's policies, your

position description and your industrial instrument govern your role and override anything in this programme wherever they differ.

- Content verified 22/09/2026 against the NSQHS Clinical Governance Standard (second edition) and the Commission's current action-by-action guidance; the NMBA Decision-making framework for nursing and midwifery (effective 3 February 2020, updated August 2022); the NMBA Code of conduct for nurses (effective 1 March 2018, updated March 2026); the NMBA registered nurse and enrolled nurse standards for practice; the Ahpra and National Boards Guidelines: Mandatory notifications about registered health practitioners (March 2020); and the AUSTRALIAN OPEN DISCLOSURE FRAMEWORK, REVISED AND RELEASED JUNE 2026. NOTE THE CURRENCY LAYERS. The Open Disclosure Framework is three months old at the date of issue and replaces the 2014 edition, so a service policy written against the 2014 edition is now out of date - that is Local Question 8. The NMBA formally lists the 2013 decision-making flowcharts and the 2010 summary guides as RETIRED, and they still circulate in induction packs. Where this programme relies on a document it names the document and its date.