

Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Act 2015

The Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Bill 2015 was introduced to Parliament on 1 September 2015 and the *Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Act 2015* (the Act) took effect from 23 December 2015.

The purposes of the Act is to confirm the minimum requirements for:

- nursing and/or midwifery staffing ratios in public health services; and
- the associated compliance reporting.

Previous Amendments included the requirement for health services to make a public disclosure related to their mixed wards and birthing suites.

Noting, there a Safe Patient Care Amendment Bill 2025, it not anticipated that Colac Area Health will need make any changes in relation to the upcoming amendments.

Amendments to the Regulations reflect current practices and provide consistency across hospitals as to the criteria and requirements services must considered in determining appropriate staffing requirements for the delivery of safe and quality care.

If you would like to know more about the Safe Patient Care Act go to <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/health-workforce/nursing-and-midwifery/safe-patient-care-act>. A copy of the legislation is available on the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website www.legislation.vic.gov.au.

At Colac Area Health – Acute Services are provided via a mixed ward incorporating the Acute and Maternity subunits. Day Services also form part of our Acute Services.

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| Name of mixed ward: | Acute Services |
| The total number of occupied beds: | 26 (24 Acute plus 2 Postnatal) |
| The different ratios that apply for Inpatient services | |
| ACUTE | Postnatal |
| Morning shift: 1 nurse to 6 patients, 1 nurse in charge | Morning shift: 1 midwife to 4 patients, 1 midwife in charge |
| Afternoon shift: 1 nurse to 7 patients | Afternoon shift: 1 midwife to 4 patients, |
| 1 Nurse/ Midwife in charge | |

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| Night shift: 1 nurse to 10 patients | Night shift: 1 midwife to 6 patients. |
| The expected number of occupied beds in ACUTE | 24 |
| The expected number of occupied Postnatal beds | 2 |
| Nominated Birthing Suites | 2 |

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