Contents

Preface	xii	How might the nurse respond?	29
Reviewers	xiii	What resources are available to	
Table of Abbreviations	xiv	assist nurses and midwives to	24
CHAPTER 1 Introduction to		address such dilemmas?	31
the law	1	Major ethical theories	32
the law	1	Deontological or intrinsicalist theories	32
Understanding what the law is	1	Teleological or consequentialist theories	33
Influence of the different		Modern feminist ethics	33
philosophies on the development		The four major ethical principles	34
of our laws	2	Autonomy	34
Where does our law come from?	3	Beneficence	35
Development of the common law	3	Non-maleficence	35
Parliamentary or statute law	5	Justice	36
The application of English legal	-	Models for ethical decision-making in healthcare	36
principles to Australia	5		
How the law operates	8	Clearly state the problem	36
Criminal law	8	Get the facts	38
Civil law	9	Consider the fundamental ethical principles	38
Civil and criminal consequences	4.0	Consider how the problem would	30
from one action	10	look from another perspective or	
Administrative machinery of the law	11	using another theory	38
State and territory courts	12	Identify ethical conflicts	39
Local courts or Magistrates' Courts	12	Consider the law	39
District or County Courts	13	Make the ethical decision	39
State and territory Supreme Courts	14	Evaluate the decision	39
Federal courts	14	Evaluate the decision	33
Federal Magistrates Court	14	CHAPTER 3 Professional	
Family Court of Australia	15	negligence and vicarious	
Federal Court of Australia	15	liability	43
High Court of Australia	15	nability	43
Other court systems and tribunals	16	Negligence as part of the law of	
The appeal process	16	civil wrongs	43
The doctrine of precedent	16	Legislative changes affecting the law	
Who pays the bill?	17	in relation to civil negligence and	42
Criminal law	17	professional negligence in particular	43
Development of the criminal law	18	Professional negligence in a healthcare context	45
The elements of a crime	19	Negligence: Principle 1 — that the	43
Criminal negligence and the		defendant owed the plaintiff a duty	
significance of the element of		of care	46
intent in healthcare settings	20	Duty of care as a nurse or midwife	46
CHARTER 2 The maletic making		What is the position outside of work?	47
CHAPTER 2 The relationship		Determining the standard of care	.,
between law and ethics	25	for healthcare professionals generally	50
Ethics: what it is	26	Standard of care in treatment cases	50
Ethics: what it is not	28	Legislative provisions relevant to	
An example of an ethical problem	28	determining the standard of care	54

The determination of the standard		Damage suffered by the plaintiff	95
of care in treatment cases following		The causal relationship between	
the introduction of the civil liability		the damage and the negligent act	98
legislation in the states and territories	58	Barnett v Chelsea and	
The standard of care in		Kensington Hospital	99
information cases	59	Hotson v Fitzgerald	101
The standard of care expected of		Finch v Rogers	103
nurses and midwives acting in a		Tabet v Gett	104
professional capacity	63	Negligence: Principle 4 — the damage	101
Expert evidence from professional peers	63	that the plaintiff is complaining	
Professional practice standards	64	about is a reasonably foreseeable	
Statutory obligations	65	consequence of the defendant's	
Departmental guidelines and/or		negligent act	105
employer policy and procedure		Damages	107
directives	66	Provision for an apology within	
Academic texts and publications	67	the context of potential civil	
The patient's medical records	67	liability for negligence	109
Understanding the approach to		Time limits or limitation periods	111
be taken in determining the		Defences to an action in negligence	112
professional standard of care	67	A general denial and rebuttal of	
Example 1: Coroner's Inquest		the allegation	112
into the death of Tracey Baxter	68	Contributory negligence	113
Example 2: Sha Cheng Wang (by his		Voluntary assumption of risk	114
tutor Ru Bo Wang) v Central Sydney		Vicarious liability	114
Area Health Service	73	•	114
Example 3: McCabe v Auburn		Who is an employee for the purposes of the doctrine of vicarious liability?	115
District Hospital	77	•	113
Example 4: Norton v Argonaut		Example: Albrighton v Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	118
Insurance Company	80		110
Example 5: Ison v Northern Rivers		Example: Ellis v Wallsend District Hospital	119
Area Health Service	81	•	119
Example 6: Langley v Glandore Pty		What constitutes the course and scope of employment?	123
Ltd (in liquidation)	84		123
Example 7: Elliott v Bickerstaff	86	Problems arising from the use of motor	125
Example 8: Coroner's Inquest into		vehicles provided by the employer	
the death of Samara Lea Hoy	87	Contribution and indemnity	127
Questioning a medical		The employer's personal liability	128
practitioner's orders	91	The nurse or midwife as an	400
Example: Coroner's Inquest into		independent contractor	129
the death of Timothy John Bice	91	Professional indemnity arrangements	400
Other examples	93	for healthcare professionals	129
Negligence: Principle 2 — that the		The nurse or midwife as a good Samaritan	131
defendant's conduct on the occasion		CHAPTER 4 Consent to	
in question fell below the standard		treatment	137
of care expected	94		137
Negligence: Principle 3 — that, as		Why is consent important?	137
a consequence of the defendant's		Assault and battery	137
breach of his or her duty of care to		Relevance of consent generally	138
the plaintiff, the plaintiff suffered damage	94	Negligence must be distinguished	138

What information is available to help	141	Terms and conditions of the contract of employment	182
professionals and patients?	141	• •	183
How may consent be given?	142	The employee's obligations	
What are the elements of a	1.1.1	The employer's obligations	184
valid consent? Any consent given is freely	144	The creation of an industrial award or workplace agreement	186
and voluntarily given	144	How the contract of employment is	
The patient is informed 'in broad		terminated	189
terms of the nature of the		A contract for a fixed period or	
procedure which is intended'	145	a specific undertaking	189
How much information does the		Death	189
patient require to make a decision		Transfer of business	189
to consent to treatment?	146	Frustration or impossibility of performance	189
Who is responsible for giving sufficient		Consent	190
information to a patient?	148	Redundancy	190
Therapeutic privilege	152	Termination by notice	190
The person giving consent has the		What constitutes an 'unfair' dismissal	130
legal capacity to give such consent	153	warranting reinstatement?	191
Adults and consent	154	Workplace health and safety	192
Statutory provisions	161	Occupational health and safety	
Temporary factors which might		legislation	193
impair capacity	162	Duty of care owed by an '	
Minors and consent	162	employer' under the model	
The right to refuse medical treatment	169	Work Health and Safety Act	194
Start a new report	170	What is meant by 'reasonably	
Advance directives, advance care		practicable'	195
planning and proxy decision-making	170	Definition and duties of a 'worker'	
The right to restrain or detain patients		and 'others' under the Act	196
without their consent	171	Obligation on a PCBU to consult	
What is false imprisonment?	173	with workers	196
How is false imprisonment committed?	173	Requirement for workplace health	
Restraint must be intentional		and safety representative(s), work	
and complete	174	groups and health and	
Defences to an action alleging		safety committees	197
false imprisonment	175	Compliance provisions under	400
Reasonable condition	175	workplace health and safety legislation	198
Lawful arrest in relation to		Entry by an authorised union officer	199
criminal offences	175	Penalties for non-compliance	199
Specific defences in relation to		A comprehensive workplace health	400
hospitals and healthcare generally	175	and safety system	199
,		Workers compensation	200
CHAPTER 5 The contract of		Workers compensation versus	
employment, including		other types of compensation for	200
occupational health and		injury at work	200
safety and workers		How does an employee qualify for workers compensation payments?	200
compensation	181		200
The contract of employment	181	The person must be an employee	
The contract of employment	191	Injury or disease	201

Arising out of or in the course	202	Patients' right of access to their	245
of employment	202	healthcare records	245
Defences to a claim for workers compensation	204	At common law	245
'	204	Legislative provisions in relation to right of access to healthcare records	
Making a workers compensation claim Some practical considerations and	203	and privacy considerations	246
advice concerning workers		Open disclosure	247
compensation	206		,
Safe system of work	207	CHAPTER 8 Professional	
		regulation of nurses and	
CHAPTER 6 The administration		midwives	253
of drugs	211	Introduction	253
Examining the relevant Regulations	214	Relevant legislation and structure of the	
Schedule 4: restricted substances	214	scheme	253
Schedule 8: controlled substances	215	The National Boards	255
Ward registers or drugs books	216	Principles of the new National	
Problem areas with drugs	218	Registration and Accreditation Scheme	256
Administrative considerations	218	The national registers	259
Clinical considerations	219	Student registration	260
Endorsements for medication		The nursing and midwifery board of Australia (NMBA)	261
administration under the new		Codes of conduct and ethics and	201
national registration scheme	222	competency standards	261
Criminal and professional issues relating		Standards for initial registration	262
to the administration of drugs	223	The continuing professional	
Appendix A: List of statutes and		development registration standard	263
regulations governing medications in Australia	224	The professional indemnity insurance	
in Australia	224	registration standard	265
CHAPTER 7 Report writing	227	The recency of practice (RoP)	
CHAITER / Report writing		registration standard	266
Report writing	227	Endorsements under section 94 of	
Relevant considerations in writing reports	228	the National Law	268
Integrated recordkeeping	231	Endorsement as a nurse practitioner	200
Reading the patients' records	231	under section 95 Nurse practitioners' access to the	269
The value of good nursing records when	222	Australian Government Medicare	
used as evidence in court	232	Benefits Schedule (MBS) and the	
The difficulties for nurses when records produced in court are poor	233	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)	271
Principles in relation to documentation	233	The regulation of midwifery	272
Advice available to nurses on documentation		Background	272
and confidentiality	236	Eligible Midwives Registration	
Documentation in nursing homes	237	Standard under section 38(2)	273
The national e-health transition		Registration Standard for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines for Midwives	
authority (NEHTA)	238	under section 94	275
Reporting and documenting adverse		Professional indemnity insurance	2,3
events and clinical incidents	240	requirements for privately practising	
Confidentiality of healthcare records	243	midwives	277

Other NMBA guidelines for nurses and midwives	279	Donation of tissue after death Ongoing difficulties with organ donation	311 312
Notifications and complaints about		Post-mortem examinations	313
nurses and midwives	280	Assisted reproductive technology (ART)	313
The New South Wales complaints system	284	and donation of reproductive tissue	314
The accreditation of nursing and		Ovulation induction	315
midwifery courses	284	Artificial insemination	315
		IVF (In vitro fertilisation)	315
CHAPTER 9 Coronial jurisdiction	289	GIFT (Gamete intrafallopian transfer)	315
The position of coroner in our		ZIFT (Zygote intrafallopian transfer)	315
legal system	289	ICSI (Intracytoplasmic sperm injection)	315
The role of the coroner	290	Epididymal and testicular sperm	313
Reportable deaths leading to an inquest	290	extraction	315
Who notifies a 'reportable death'	291	Freezing of sperm and embryos	315
The procedure following notification		Donor eggs, embryos and sperm	316
of a 'reportable death'	291	bollor eggs, embryos and sperm	310
Findings and recommendations that		CHAPTER 11 Mental health	319
may arise from a coroner's inquest	293	Legislative approach	321
The relevance of a coroner's inquest for		Australian Capital Territory: Mental	
nursing staff	294	Health (Treatment and Care) Act 1994	321
Legal representation at the inquest	295	Definitions	321
Relevant advice and procedure for		Admission to and detention in	
nurses and midwives in relation to	205	a mental health facility	322
a coroner's inquest	295	Patient rights, review of care and	
Procedure prior to an inquest	296	appeal mechanisms under the Act	328
When an inquest is held or likely to be held	296	Appeal rights	329
Extract from the New South Wales Nurses'		Official visitors	329
Association guidelines for		New South Wales: Mental Health	
the purposes of giving statements		Act 2007	331
for coroners' inquests and other		Definitions	331
disciplinary matters	298	Admission to and detention in a	
		mental health facility under the	
CHAPTER 10 Human tissue		New South Wales Act	334
transplantation	301	Admission of a person as a	
History and background of human		voluntary patient	334
tissue transplantation and research	301	Admission of involuntary patients	336
Classifications of human tissue	302	Nomination of primary carer by a	
Development of law in relation to		person admitted as a voluntary	
usage of human tissue	303	patient, or detained as an	
The requirement for consent in		involuntary patient, 'assessable person' or subject to a community	
live donations	305	treatment order under the Act	339
Adults	308	Limited detention of a mentally	000
Children	309	disordered person	341
Removal of blood	310	Detention of a mentally ill person	341
Adults	310	What is the Mental Health	
Children	311	Review Tribunal?	343
			_

- 1	2.42		200
The composition of the tribunal	343	Guardianship Board	380
The role of the tribunal	344	Patient rights, review of care and	201
The procedure of the tribunal	344	appeal mechanisms under the Act	381
Appeals from decisions of the tribunal	345	Community visitors	382
Forms and types of treatment	2.45	Appeal rights	382
under the Act	345	Tasmania: Mental Health Act 1996	383
Community treatment orders	345	Definitions	383
Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)	347	Admission to and detention in	
Surgery or special medical treatment	349	an approved hospital	384
Patient rights, review of care		The role of the Mental Health Tribunal	388
and appeal mechanisms under the Act	350	Forensic Tribunal	389
Review of care	351	Forms and types of treatment	
Northern Territory: <i>Mental Health</i>	331	under the Act	390
and Related Services Act 1998	352	Patient rights and the role of	
Objectives and definitions	352	official visitors under the Act	391
Admission to and detention in	332	Official visitors	391
an approved treatment facility	354	Victoria: Mental Health Act 1986	392
Forms and types of treatment		Proposed new Mental Health	
under the Act	358	Act for Victoria	392
The regulation and prohibition		Mental Health Act 1986	392
of certain forms of treatment		Definitions	392
under the Act	359	Admission to and detention in an	
Patient rights, community visitors and		approved mental health service	394
appeal mechanisms under the Act	362	Voluntary admissions or treatment	394
Mental Health Review Tribunal	363	Involuntary admission or treatment	394
Appeals to the Supreme Court of the		Mental Health Review Board	396
Northern Territory	363	Forms and types of treatment	
Queensland: Mental Health Act 2000	363	under the Act	398
Definitions	364	Application of bodily restraint	
Admission to and detention in an		and seclusion	403
authorised mental health service	365	Patient rights, review of care and	
Justices examination order	366	appeal mechanisms under the Act	406
Emergency involuntary assessment	367	Community visitors	408
Involuntary treatment order	368	Western Australia: Mental Health	
Treatment plans	369	Act 1996	409
The role of the Mental Health Review	270	Definitions	409
Tribunal and Mental Health Court	370	Admission to and detention in	
Forms and types of treatment under the Act	371	an authorised hospital	410
		Emergency psychiatric treatment,	442
Treatment prohibited by the Act	372	seclusion and restraint of patients	412
Restraint and seclusion	372	Forms and types of treatment	44.4
Patient rights, review of care and appeal mechanisms under the Act	374	under the Act	414
South Australia: <i>Mental Health Act 2009</i>	374	Patient rights, review of care and appeal mechanisms under the Act	415
Definitions	375 375	Mental Health Review Board	
	3/3	ivientai neaitti keview Board	415
Admission to and detention in an approved treatment centre	376	Index	417
approved a cauncil centre	370	mack	71/