

Consultation Paper Registration Standards and Related Matters

Comments from the Nursing Board of Tasmania.

Mandatory Registration Standards	Comments
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2.2 English Language Skill Is the definition of International Student adequate?	<p>It is not believed that the definition of International Student is adequate.</p> <p>Rationale unclear the intention is unclear as to whether this definition only applies to International Students who are studying a program in Australia leading to entitlement for registration or enrolment.</p>
Should OET be accepted?	<p>OET as a testing mechanism be supported which accepts a minimum of B across all four levels.</p> <p>Rationale This is a currently accepted equivalence to IELTS by the majority of NMRA's in Australia. Would support review on receipt of new evidence relating to any issues regarding reliability and validity.</p>
Should IELTS > 2yrs be accepted	<p>This suggestion is not supported.</p> <p>Rationale IELTS recommendation of test results within a two year timeframe is based on current research. Tests more than two years old should only be accepted as evidence of present level of language ability if it is accompanied by proof that a candidate has actively maintained or tried to improve their English language proficiency. This recommendation is based upon the knowledge around the phenomenon of second language loss or 'attrition', a topic which is well-researched and documented in the Literature.</p>

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	<p>The two-year period also parallels ETS (Education Testing System) recommendations for the use of TOEFL scores (used in a similar way to IELTS): ETS suggests that non-native speakers who have taken the TOEFL test within the past two years and who have successfully pursued academic work in an English speaking country for a specified minimum period of time (generally two years) with English as the language of instruction may be exempted from providing TOEFL test scores.</p>
Should references under 1a be amended to ensure English is the medium of instruction and should the list of countries be removed?	<p>References under 1a exemptions should be clarified to ensure English is the medium of instruction.</p> <p>Support 1(a) as follows:</p> <p>The applicant provides evidence of successful secondary education in English, and that the applicant's tertiary qualifications in the relevant professional discipline were taught and assessed in English.</p> <p>Rationale</p> <p>This provides the emphasis on having completed a tertiary qualification that was taught and assessed in English.</p>
Remove the list of countries	<p>Agree that countries need to be listed but do not support the inclusion of South Africa in the list.</p> <p>Rationale</p> <p>The Nursing Board of Tasmania reviewed its policy on English language proficiency for South African nurses and determined to require all applicants to provide evidence of English language proficiency. This policy amendment was adopted to align with other states and territories.</p>
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