



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Submission to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) in response to the *Consultation paper on registration standards and related matters (2009)* by the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Queensland (UQSONM).

The UQSONM would like to make the following comments:

1. [REDACTED]

2. English language skills – UQSONM has found that unless the definition of “international student” is clear, there can be many difficulties. For example, students may be permanent residents who have undertaken secondary school study in Australia some time ago, and yet not have adequate English language skills for clinical practice or academic pursuits, or have undertaken their secondary education internationally, and because they are permanent residents, they will not be identified as an international student by universities.

OET should be accepted as an equivalent indicator of English language skills.

IELTS (or any other test) older than 2 years should not be accepted.

It would be preferable to include reference to English as the medium of instruction in the section on secondary school education.

Having a list of countries is questionable, as it includes countries where English is not necessarily the first language or language of instruction – for example: Canada, where some provinces are French speaking; and South Africa. It also excludes countries such as Singapore where it could be argued that English is the language of instruction, business and day to day life for the majority of the population.

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