



17 August 2012

Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne VIC 3001

By email: criminalhistoryconsult@ahpra.gov.au

RE: INTERNATION CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery [ANZ] (the Council) is the peak organisation that represents the Deans and Heads of the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery in universities that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The Council has considered each of the proposals outlined by the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency in the consultation paper on international criminal history checks and wishes to make the following comments.

Domestic students entering into programs of study that lead to the attainment of qualifications that allow for registration as a nurse, midwife or nurse practitioner in Australia are required to apply for a National Police Certificate . Overseas students must also have a police check completed in their home country prior to arrival. In circumstances where a student is unable to provide a police check from their country of origin, they must complete a statutory declaration to indicate that they do not have any criminal convictions or pending charges in their country of origin or any other country. By completing this declaration, the applicant is advised that a person who intentionally makes a false statement is guilty of an offence, the punishment of which may be imprisonment for a term of 5 years in some jurisdictions.

The Council would be concerned if the expectations of graduates seeking registration as a nurse, midwife or nurse practitioner by the regulatory body were substantially different to this, however if the decision of AHPRA is such that the requirements for registration are increased, the Council would seek to disseminate this advice to its member universities.

Yours sincerely

Professor Patrick Crookes

Chair, CDNM (ANZ)