

Consultation paper on draft accreditation standards for nursing and midwifery

Comments from the Australian Catholic University Schools of Nursing and Midwifery (23/11/09)

Comments on the proposed Registration Standards

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Section 2.2 English language skills

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Definition of international applicant/student requires clarification.

It is unclear if this statement refers to students in relation to student registration at the commencement of a course.

If this statement refers to an applicant who is a student who has recently completed a course leading to registration, they should not be called students- their studies are completed.

Suggestion: There seems to be no other mention of student registration in the document therefore reference to "international students" should be removed if this does not relate to student registration.

English language skills standard: Requirement 5

Has the Board considered allowing applicants to sit more than one test to demonstrate the minimum score over a fixed period of say one year as is practiced in other countries such as New Zealand. (*Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003*) language testing can be very stressful and does not necessarily demonstrate the applicant's competence in all areas in one sitting.

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Suggestion: Delete list of countries

Agree that OET is a suitable English language test for Nurses and Midwives.

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Standard 8 Professional Experience

Supervised professional experience requirements are overly prescriptive, and lead to an emphasis on numbers rather than the quality and depth of each experience. There is anecdotal evidence of students making up records past a number where they feel competent.

Prescribing extended professional experience to meet all these requirements does not ensure that the desired learning outcomes will be met or improved. Some principles of expectations would guide course development, implementation and evaluation, but this prescriptive approach has no underpinning educational principle other than past tradition.

Suggestion: minimum hours should not be included in the document .

The criteria for this standard should be written in a similar style for each category. For example the Nurse Practitioner document does not prescribe hours.