



Anne Copeland
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
Via email: natboards@dhs.vic.gov.au

Re NMBA Consultation paper on Registration Standards and Related Matters

Dear Ms Copeland,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this paper. The Australian College of Midwives (ACM) is the peak professional body for midwives in Australia with members in all states and territories and across all areas of practice and professional roles.

The ACM strongly supports many of the draft standards circulated for comment. We have major concerns about the proposed standards for midwife practitioner. These areas of support and concern are outlined in the attached response.

The ACM has been strongly supportive of the move to national registration for midwives. We are pleased this project is getting closer to fruition. We appreciate that there is a daunting workload ahead of the new NMBA as you work to establish the registration policies and processes for Australian midwives and nurses. We look forward to a productive working relationship with the NMBA and are keen to support you in any way we can with this important endeavour in the next 7 months and beyond.

ACM would particularly recommend to the Board that it consider creating a Standing Committee for Midwifery Regulation. This would be an effective way of creating credibility for the new NMBA in discharging its responsibilities for establishing the standards and pathways for midwifery education, practice, standards, and regulation.

We note that the consultation paper makes numerous references to professional associations having been notified of the opportunity for comment on these papers. ACM did not receive any notification. We would ask that you add my email address to your notifications in future: executiveofficer@midwives.org.au. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Barbara Vernon
Executive Office

24 November 2009



**Submission to the Nursing and Midwifery Board
re Consultation paper on Registration Standards and Related Matters
November 2009**

1. PROPOSALS FOR MANDATORY STANDARDS

[REDACTED]

1.2 English Language Skills

In relation to English language requirements the ACM supports the ANMC's recommended approach, based on their report from August 2009 by Carramar Consulting entitled 'Final Report on Development of National Standards for Assessment of Internationally Qualified Nurses & Midwives for Registration and Migration' (pg 15) that addresses this issue. The current accepted IELTS (International English Language Test) score recommended (and also that currently accepted by NMC UKCC following widespread public consultation) for education & practice is 7. ACM supports level 7 being required.

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