

**SUBMISSION REGARDING THE CONSULTATION PAPER
ON REGISTRATION STANDARDS AND RELATED MATTERS**



**ACT Nursing and
Midwifery Board**

24 NOVEMBER 2009

RESPONSES

The ACT Nursing and Midwifery Board submit the following comments in relation to the above consultation paper

2.1 Criminal history

Question: • whether the types of criminal history information listed should be specified in the standard to be considered in descending order of relevance, or whether the standard would be more flexible if it merely referred to: convictions, findings of guilt, pending charges and non-conviction charges, that is charges that have been resolved otherwise than a conviction or finding of guilt without suggesting that there is a descending order of relevance

Comment: The Board agrees with the standard as presented

Question: • whether the words 'or client' should be inserted wherever there is a reference to patients, on the basis that nurses and midwives work with clients who are not necessarily patients.

Comment: The Board agrees that client should be inserted at each occurrence.

2.2 English language skills

The following draft common registration standard on English language requirements is proposed to be used by all registration boards.

Question: • whether the definition of 'international student' is adequate and whether this standard should apply to entry-to-practice students and postgraduate students

Comment: Agreed

Question: • whether OET should be accepted as a test of English language

Comment: No. The Department of Immigration will only accept IELTS as the standard English test for professionals

Question: • whether IELTS (or approved equivalent) more than two years old should be accepted as current

Comment: No.

Question: • whether the references under 1(a) should be amended to

- clarify the secondary education to ensure that English is the medium of instruction
- remove the list of countries.

Comment: agreed with both of these statements

Further comments

Amend to 'achieving a minimum score of 7 across all bands in the IELTS academic module

Delete '(b) other tests as approved by the Board (to be specified in the standard)'

Delete #4 of the requirements

Delete 'for example, by secure internet login' from #7,

Delete 'in any country other than those specified in exemption 1' in the definitions

**SUBMISSION REGARDING THE CONSULTATION PAPER
ON REGISTRATION STANDARDS AND RELATED MATTERS**



**ACT Nursing and
Midwifery Board**

24 NOVEMBER 2009

RESPONSES

2.3 Professional indemnity insurance

At each instance, amend 'Privately practising midwives' to 'self employed practising midwives'

2.4 Continuing professional development

Agreed as written

2.5 Recency of practice

Add, Note: Individual cases may be assessed on a case by case basis.

The Board has come to this view because there is no evidence to identify and support the length of time that a health professional does not practice, but is considered to be competent. The State and Territory Nursing and Midwifery Boards have decided individually on a length of time that they believe protects the public from risk and is fair to individual health professionals. This varies between 3 – 5 years.

3 Proposals for board-specific standards

The Board agrees with the Standards as presented

4 Proposals for endorsements

The Board agrees with this item, with the exception of the endorsed actions of pages 23 and 24. The sentence 'The endorsement relates to administering, obtaining, possessing, supplying and using the scheduled medicines described above' should be amended to,

'The endorsement relates to administering, obtaining, possessing, and supplying the scheduled medicines described above.'

The word 'using' may have a different connotation to the other words in this sentence, which may lead to difficulties should a health care professional be accused of 'using' a scheduled medicine.