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**To:** Standard Consultation  
**Subject:** Consultation-Registration Standards

To whom it may concern

My submissions is mainly on IELTS. While it is crucial for health professionals to have sound English to perform their duties competently, it is also important to note this practise is not just expensive but also unfair and discriminatory to international students. I put it to the board that more than half of Australian nurses who are Australian/ New Zealand/ British/American citizens, given this examination to write they will not score +7 in every section. I am a bachelor of nursing student and am practising with friends who have English as their first language, they are not making it. I am talking of nurses who were born in an English environment and started to hear English words the first day they were born but they are not scoring +7. So why are international students required to score 7 yet the natives can't do it. Ministry of Health would be left with a skeletal staff if everyone is to write the IELTS before registration. They can speak the English very well but when it comes to writing, their spellings and sentence construction is shocking. This can be proved in University records where us international students pass without resubmitting assignments and rewriting exams and those who had their secondary education here in Australia have resubmits and rewrites. The IELTS exam is set in a way to discriminate people because there is no way one can read and answer questions from 2 long academic sections within an hour. For fair assessment and judgment, let this be written by Australian graduates before registration. I refer the board to: Australian apprentices failing basic numeracy and literacy tests. Lucy Carter reported this story on [Friday, November 1, 2013 12:50:00](#). (ABC 24 News). This is very true and we are noticing it everyday in our lectures. Yes we are international students with English as a second language but when it comes to demonstrating academic performances, some Australians fall short but they are being exempted because they are Australians. The IELTS should be across-the-board.

Thank you.

Marian Chikwanha