

20/10/2023

Submission to **NMBA Draft Registration Standard** on the General registration for
internationally qualified registered nurses

Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia and New Zealand)

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *draft Registration standard: General registration for internationally qualified registered nurses*. The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) (CDNM) is the peak organisation that represents the Deans and Heads of the Schools of Nursing in universities that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand. The CDNM aims to ensure the maintenance of quality standards of university education for nurses and midwives, to be the voice of tertiary education for nurses and midwives, to lead and represent those who provide tertiary education to nurses and midwives and to promote the public image of nursing and midwifery.

Questions for consideration

1. **Do you support the proposed approach in the draft registration standard? Why or why not?**

The CDNM supports the proposed approach with the need for specific clarifications. If the primary objective is to augment the RN workforce, it is essential to ensure that the identified comparable jurisdictions, such as India, Philippines, and Nepal, have a substantial pipeline of qualified candidates through recognised overseas examination processes.

2. **Is the information in the draft registration standard clear? If no, please explain why.**

Yes, the information in the draft registration standard is clear.

3. **Are the proposed pathways, clear and workable? If no, please explain why.**

The proposed pathways are deemed workable, contingent upon their efficacy in augmenting the workforce. If these changes fail to enhance the supply of qualified professionals, a reassessment may be necessary.

4. **Do you support the requirement for successful completion of a regulatory examination process for internationally qualified registered nurses in an NMBA-approved comparable international regulatory jurisdiction? Why or why not?**

Endorsement is contingent upon NMBA's thorough assessment of the examination's validity. A critical consideration is the comparability of examinations, including whether they encompass both theoretical and practical assessments.

5. **Do you support the requirement for 1,800 hours of practice in an NMBA-approved comparable international regulatory jurisdiction/s prior to application for registration in Australia? Why or why not?**

Yes, with the condition that there is clarity regarding the verification of the 1800 hours. A certificate of service from the previous employer should suffice. Consideration should be given to individuals working part-time over multiple years, ensuring equitable evaluation.

6. **Do you support the draft registration standard being extended to internationally qualified midwives from the NMBA-approved list of comparable international**

regulatory jurisdictions where midwifery has a comparable educational standard/framework and is regulated as a separate profession, i.e. the United Kingdom, Ireland and relevant Canadian provinces? Why or why not?

Yes, with the aforementioned questions requiring clarification.