

Media release

21 March 2011

Board update on English language skills registration standard

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board) today confirmed that the current English language skills registration standard remains in place pending the outcome of an extensive consultation process.

The Board has analysed more than 280 submissions received during the consultation process that closed on 14 January 2011. The consultation process provided feedback to the Board on potential changes to the Board's standard.

The Board is now considering a final draft of the standard, developed as a result of the feedback provided.

Board Chair, Ms Anne Copeland, said the timeframe for the introduction of the new standard depended on a number of factors including the approval requirements, development of an implementation plan and/or any transitional arrangements from the existing standard to a new Registration standard.

"Under the National Law, the final standard approved by the Board must be considered – and approved – by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) before it can be implemented," Ms Copeland said.

The Board does not control the timelines of the AHWMC and therefore, is not able to provide definite information about when the new standard will be implemented.

"However, I can assure applicants for registration and current students that the Board is finalising the revised standard as an absolute priority and is working closely with AHWMC to make sure this is progressed as efficiently as possible," Ms Copeland said.

Should AHWMC approve the revised standard, there will be a smooth transition from the current to the new standard. It will be supported by detailed operating protocols to ensure consistent application of the new standard across all AHPRA State and Territory offices and clear information on the Board website.

"In the meantime, the current standard remains in place and should guide all prospective applicants seeking registration as a nurse or midwife in Australia," Ms Copeland said.

The Board will update all stakeholders on the progress of its review of the current English Language Skills Standard as soon as new information is available. The Board will also publish all submissions received about the proposed English language skills standard on website in due course.

For more information

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