

From: Glen Warren [
Sent: Monday, 15 November 2010 8:36 PM
To: Kathleen Almond
Subject: English language review comment.

To Kathleen Almond

I am writing to you as you are a member of AHPRA in reviewing the English language skills, to express my concern about the changes to the admission for Division 2 nurses into the profession and the inclusion of IELTS in the nursing entry process.

A concern for current students is about the abrupt change that occurred to entry without prior notification to current students or any warning before they enrolled for their course a year before the 1 July 2010 of these changes, and the fact that little to no consideration for future nursing intake was taken about the changes. This abrupt change has caused many in their view to waste their money as many will not attempt or possibly fail the IELTS examination, and the fact that more money must be wasted when these students had already passed the VetAssess exam needed to gain entry into the course.

The second area of concern is the too high an entry requirement (IELTS level 7) required for someone with a Certificate IV in Nursing and the new Diploma of Nursing level subject, that this will discourage new applicants, as who will even worry about a Division 2 Nursing profession when with a level 7 they can gain entry into a tertiary place, with the prospect of a job with better pay.

The IELTS level 7 for nursing is too high and the subject outlined above are not at tertiary level, nor do they seek the work requirement of that level. This along with the type of low paying profession as this is, is discouraging recruitment into the Certificate/Diploma based program that has no equivalent in a university. The requirement that an applicant must have completed secondary education in English, and be taught the certificate in English for entry to a tertiary level is also fanciful. What does year 11 and 12 have to do with someone's ability five, ten or thirty years since leaving school? For a certificate should also have been phased in, along with the new requirements.

The following examples are universities entry requirements in the UK, (you might say what does this have to do with Australia, but these are equivalent to Australian degrees in this global society). Score depends on subject.

*University of Edinburgh requires 6-7

(<http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/international/language>),

*Oxford a level 7

(http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate_courses/courses/courses_and_entrance_requirements/english_language.html)

*Cambridge level 7

(<http://www.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/international/requirements.html>)

*Liverpool University Level 6-7 (<http://www.liv.ac.uk/study/international/countries/english-language.htm>)

The above is to reflect the fact that a level 7 in IELTS is well and truly too high for a certificate.

On the November there was a change that is a bit unclear, there was an allowance for people who had done a tertiary degree in English, do not have to sit the IELTS exam. This is a bit of an improvement but what degrees are included is a mystery. I would like to know what degrees are included in this exemption.

I am writing this letter to obtain some answers as to why the changes were made, and to those I outlined above. As who ever consented to the changes and implemented them, either has little knowledge of the area or did not thoroughly research the area and the impacts this will have on nursing.

My main concern is that this would lead to a decrease in nursing numbers via a reduction in student training. As there is a perceived shortage of nurses and skilled people in many occupations, there is a doubt that this can be afforded.

Regards Glen Warren