

**From:** man liu [<mailto:>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 December 2010 11:05 PM  
**To:** Kathleen Almond  
**Subject:** COMMENTS ON REGISTRATION STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

My comments on consultation draft on Registration Standard for English Language Skills

I have observed with keen interest the changes or revisions that the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia is making in the English Languages Skills requirements for nurses and midwives' registration.

It is really appalling to hear, in the first place, that the board is requiring people who completed years of studies in nursing profession to write an English test as a pre-requisite to registering with the board. This is because all the skills require for safe nursing practice are all taught and acquired during the course of the study. During this period students undergo intensive theoretical and practical teachings and also get to complete hours of clinical experience in the hospitals. All these are done in and using English language, so these make students to constantly practise and communicate in English language.

Furthermore, some of these nurse graduates have been in Australia for many years, like twenty years, and have been speaking and communicating in English, so it sounds really ridiculous for them to be expected to go and sit for the English test.

On the other hand, very many students have got their New Graduate Transition Program at the hospitals starting in 2011, if they can not pass the English test in one sitting it will mean they don't meet the registration standards and can not apply for registration or get the registration before the New Graduate Program starts. Therefore, they will lose or miss out on the New Graduate Program opportunity and placement at the hospitals. This is really going to be very sad for the students concerned and devastating to their families.

We have spent a lot of money and time to undertake this RN course in Australia and can not work as RNs. It will be recalled that Australian Government always announces to encourage citizens and international students alike to upgrade by studying so as to minimise the percentage of unemployment. Now, we are finishing and ready to work as RN, but can not get the registration. This English language skill requirement will only worsen the shortages of nurses which we are already experiencing here in Australia.

I hereby seriously recommend that the English skills registration standards be suspended for the students who enrolled and are studying before July 1, 2010 but should be effective only on those students who enrolled into their nursing course at the university after 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010 when this particular registration standard commenced. It should not affect those students who have enrolled and started their studies prior to 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010. This is because it is not fair, especially, to those students who are finishing by the end of 2010 and will be applying for their registration and going for their new grad program early next year.

I want this my comments and recommendations to be published and don' t hesitate to contact me on the number below if any more information is needed from me.

Regards,

MAN LIU