

From: May May [<mailto:>]
Sent: Sunday, 28 November 2010 10:46 AM
To: Kathleen Almond
Subject: The consultation for Registration Standard for English Language Skills

Hi Kathleen,

My name is May and I am an international student studying nursing at the moment. I am writing this letter to express my opinion on the Registration Standard for English Language Skills.

On the one hand, I do NOT agree with you to wave the English language skills registration standard for those who study nursing/midwife education in English. I deeply believe that is a bad idea for the medical safety in Australia. Firstly, the applicants who pass all the subjects in nursing program in Australia does means he/she is eligible to become a nurse in Australia. A lot of my classmates are from China/Japan/Korea, I believe that they can pass the course but I do not think their English ability is good enough to be a nurse in Australia. Secondly I can hardly image how dangerous it is if a person who speaks very bad English to be a nurse in Australia. How can they understand with the doctor and the patient? How about a medical accident happened because of the nurse's bad English? I reckon you must receive a lot of mails which have been sent by those people who support you to wave the English language skills to become a nurse in Australia. I think these people must have very limited English skills and mainly come from Asian countries. Furthermore, the CPA ask for IELTS band 7 to become a accountant in Australia (refer:<http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/cpa-site/hs.xsl/home.html>) and AIWCW ask for IELTS 7 to become a welfare worker in Australia (Refer: <http://www.aiwcw.org.au/content/qualification-assessment>). What makes you think that the nurses who deal with patients' health do not need an English Standard to work in Australia? Overall, I think it is necessary to set up an English standard for those people who are not born and glowed up in an English background and wish to become a nurse in Australia no matter where they practise nursing/midwife education.

On the other hand, I think the English standard which you have been set up now is too rigid. It is really hard to achieve band 7 in each of the four components in one sitting of the IELTS exam. How about a person get band 9 in three components and 6.5 in one component? Does it mean this person does not have an eligible English skill to be a nurse in Australia? I do not think so. Moreover it is unfair to those people who have the ability to achieve band 7 but just bad luck can not get band 7 in four components in one single sitting. All in all, the English standard may be set up more flexible and reasonable. My opinion is you could set up an English standard band 7 in IELTS exam, but the applicants do not need achieve that in one sitting. Or you could set up overall band 7.5 in IELTS but the applicants can achieve them by a minimum score of 7 in two of the four components(speaking and listening) and a minimum score of 6.5 in other two of the four components (reading and writing).

Thank you for your time to read this mail. Have a lovely day. All the best.

Warm regards
May