

From: longkui puti [<mailto:>]
Sent: Friday, 10 December 2010 9:17 AM
To: Kathleen Almond
Subject: Registration Standard for English Language Skills

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am an international nursing student who has just finished my Bachelor of Nursing course here in Australia. Nursing education in Australia is of high standard, which has been recognised internationally. That's why I choose to study in Australia to get my professional qualification and to start my nursing career.

Regretfully, I couldn't get my nursing career started due to English Language Skills Registration Standard for international students. I can fully understand that it is imperative to have excellent communication skills in order to protect the public, since health care is about life and death decision. However, high quality nursing care is based on professional knowledge, skills and attitude; language tests, such as IELTS and OET, are not necessarily associated with competency in interpersonal interaction.

My GPA is 5.7, I have got 'D' in clinical performance, and my facilitators and other nursing staff can confirm the safety of my practice during acute care clinical placement. However, I just couldn't pass those language tests in one setting and I am sure it is not easy for local students to pass IELTS all bands 7 in one setting. Therefore, I can not help myself asking why AHPRA ask our international students to do this? It is not fair, if we international students have to take the English test, I suggest that all the local students should take the test as well for the equity purpose. I am confident about my English and took several times of IELTS during 2010. I was completely disappointed at the results because every time I got listening (8) reading (8) writing(6.5) speaking(7) or listening (8) reading (8) writing(7) speaking(6.5). How dispiteous!!! I just can not achieve all bands 7 in one setting. Does this mean my English is not good? Does this mean my two years study is waste of time? Does this mean I have no choice but to give up their nursing career in Australia?

We international nursing students who have completed our nursing education here in Australian do wish the revised draft standard could give us a chance to practice in local health care system. With time and experience, we can definitely demonstrate our English proficiency and profession competency.

kind Regards
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