

From: Regina Neary [\[mailto:_____\]](mailto:)
Sent: Wednesday, 15 December 2010 5:19 PM
To: Kathleen Almond
Cc: Andrew Woods
Subject: ACT NURSING SERVICE

Dear Kathleen,

I must apologize for submitting comments post the due date. We had not been asked to comment but the draft had been brought to our attention. Being a main provider of nursing staff to the hospitals in Canberra, I hope that my comments have some relevance and offer some insight.

Firstly, the review of accessing the literacy competency standards for Registered Nurses is timely. It is most important that nurses who have attained their tertiary training in a country that speak English as a first language, are duly recognized and exempt from doing a literacy test. This is particularly appropriate when, all other health professional bodies offer exclusions to applicants; that have attained qualifications in an country that speaks English as a first language.

Secondly, those nurses that are currently applying for registration regardless of their IELTS status are given a list at the outset of the application process to APRAH. This which will enable applicants to expedite the process to the maximum.

I have had a few conversations with staff from APRAH and familiarized myself with the content of the web pages. My understanding is that, currently Registered Nurses from the United Kingdom have a different process with regard to doing the ILETS test than Registered Nurses from the Republic of Ireland.

I question the rationale behind this exclusion, considering that both the United Kingdom (Wales and Scotland) and Ireland have minimum populations that do not speak English as a first language. As an Registered Nurse who has lived and qualified as a nurse in the Republic Of Ireland, I will share what information I have with regard to the language and literacy in Ireland.

Primarily, the Republic of Ireland speaks English as a first language. There are tiny pockets of Gaelic speaking areas, by this I mean that Gaelic is the first language. This accounts for 70,000 out of a population of four million. Such areas do not offer tertiary training to nurses, therefore, if people have secondary training in these Gaelic areas, they will be learning English as a second language. On completion of their secondary education, if they chose to study nursing as an example, they must train in a tertiary intuition that speaks English as a first language.

The purpose of this correspondence is to state that ; nurses from the Republic Of Ireland should be afforded the same process with regard to literacy as nurse from the United Kingdom.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter

Yours sincerely

Regina Neary