

From: Mevlida Selimovic
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2010 10:59 PM
To: Kathleen Almond
Subject: AHPRA English Language Skills Registration Standard

Hi Kathleen,

I am writing to you in regards to the new standards for Nursing registration implemented by AHPRA this year. The new standard requires all students to sit an IELTS exam and achieve a minimum score of 7 in each of the 4 components. This is rather disappointing and frustrating not only for myself but my colleagues, and most likely the educational institutions involved as well as prospective employers.

In the past decade, Australia has been faced with an exponentially increasing population that the infrastructure is thoroughly struggling to sustain. This is most definitely evident in the health industry as a shortage of nurses nation-wide has been highlighted numerous times in the media and confirmed by many personal experiences of patients as well as ABS census figures.

It is incredibly disappointing that a government body is seeking to possibly resonate this problem and most likely amplify it by setting various hurdles for prospective nurses (or current students). Currently in Australia, full fee Nursing courses can vary from ~\$12,000-\$25,000 in fees alone. Students must not only meet this financial demand but also carry the prospective burden of undertaking an IELTS exam (currently charged at ~\$300 per sitting) as well as preparation courses that can not only prolong their prospective employment by up to 50 weeks, but will also cost them up ~\$20,000 to prepare for.

Furthermore, it is rather concerning that the governing health practitioner body of Australia lacks any confidence in the educational system that has been deployed to produce qualified nurses in Australia. How can students that have completed their tertiary course in the English language, within Australia, in an Australian educational institution be required to sit an English exam post the completion and graduation of their course (or prior to their registration as a nurse)?

Please revise the current standards and support the system that has been supporting Australia for decades. It is almost trivial that students who complete a tertiary nursing course within Australia in the English language be required to sit an English exam upon the completion of the course. Please ensure that Requirement (1);

"1. An applicant who was taught and assessed in his or her tertiary, entry to practice nursing and/or midwifery education in English in the countries listed here:

- * Australia
- * Canada
- * New Zealand
- * Republic of Ireland
- * South Africa
- * United Kingdom and/or
- * United States of America

may be considered to have met the English language skills registration standard. For graduates from programs of study approved by the Board (as published at the Board's website at www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au<<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au>> under Accreditation: Approved programs of study), it is a requirement that the head of school confirms to the Board that the applicant is safe to practise nursing and/or midwifery in a clinical setting, using the English language. "

of your consultation draft is thoroughly emphasised and highlighted as a crucial ammendment to the new regulations.

Regards,

Mevlida Selimovic