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From: Linda Gregory [\[mailto:_____\]](mailto:)
Sent: Friday, 10 December 2010 4:50 PM
To: Kathleen Almond
Cc: Sally Whalen
Subject: Comment from St Vincent's Hospital Division of Nursing regarding draft standard for the English Language Requirement for Registration

Dear Kathleen,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft standard regarding changes to the English Language standard required for initial registration.

I write on behalf of St Vincent's Hospital Division of Nursing to express concern regarding the requirement that confirmation by the Head of School provides sufficient rigor to be the only evidence submitted for ensuring that the applicant meets the English language standard required for clinical practice.

I can appreciate that this may be appropriate in most cases for applicants who grew up and went to school in the various listed countries and that this is adequate for confirming their level of proficiency with the English language. However, there have often been cases where applicants (who are from a NESB) that have undertaken and completed entry education programs in health related courses in Australia, who have had significant difficulties in the work practice environment because they were unable to understand, speak the language, interpret medication labels or understand telephone conversations as the caller spoke too quickly in English.

It is a mandatory requirement that nurses and midwives adhere to best practice and have the necessary English language skills required to practice safely within the Australian context. A determination made by the Head of School can be variable and sets a precedent for inequity and potential inconsistencies in the interpretation of individual English language skills.

Should the draft standard for this be approved, what systems and process would be in place to ensure that there is appropriate rigor surrounding confirmation from the Head of School relating to the applicants ability with English in the clinical setting?

I hope that the Board will carefully consider the implications for the nursing and midwifery profession should the standard be implemented in this current form.

Sincerely
Linda Gregory

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St Vincent's Hospital
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