



8th December 2010

Kathleen Almond

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

Dear Kathleen

RE: Feedback on English Proficiency Requirements

Marr Mooditj is recognised as the leader in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurse training.

More Aboriginal ENs graduate than any other VET/Tertiary Sector in WA and we encourage and support student participation from across WA that includes regional, remote and metro areas.

We believe we are leading the industry as we implement programs that consider the socio, historical, economic and cultural barriers that have prevented Aboriginal and Torres people from obtaining education at secondary and tertiary levels and enter into the workforce.

I am the training coordinator at Marr Mooditj, a registered nurse and I am Aboriginal.

Currently, I am recognised as a consultant and expert at state and national levels I have recently been awarded the highest accolade in Western Australia for indigenous nursing as the Aboriginal Nurse of the Year in the Nursing and Midwifery Awards of Excellence 2010 WA

I have been asked to represent WA by the WA Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee, This committee consults and advisers the Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officers on pressing issues, planning and pathways to support and build Indigenous nursing and midwifery for Australia.

With this information regarding my professional background in supporting and building Aboriginal nursing in WA and on a national agenda, I request AHPRA to address the following concerns about the draft policy.

- The Board considers that applicants who have been taught and assessed in English in their **tertiary**, entry to practice nursing and/or midwifery education should meet this requirement. I want clarification on the term tertiary as the Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2) is taught in the vocational training sector and my understanding is that this is not a tertiary facility. Please include this sector.
- The IELTS will disadvantage my students who struggle with the costs of training and will not have funds to meet the cost of the testing. Aboriginal students can have issues with literacy and numeracy and as a training organisation we are addressing this with additional support and training. This system is not appropriate in which to test literacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

If you have any questions for me about my feedback I would be available to discuss them with you.

Yours Sincerely

Melanie Robinson Training Coordinator