



Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu
midwifery council
of new zealand

3 December 2010

Anne Copeland
Chair
Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia
GPO Box 9958
Melbourne
Victoria 3001
Australia

Dear Anne

English Language Skills Registration Standard

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your proposed new standard.

While it is somewhat academic as the Standard states that New Zealand educated and trained midwives are exempt, the TransTasman Mutual Recognition Agreement means that and New Zealand registered midwife has an absolute right of registration in Australia based solely on their registration here. The statues implementing this agreement do not permit the use of language tests or any other test.

Our suggestion is that the policy should be amended to include a statement that it does not apply to nurses or midwives seeking registration in Australia under the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement.

For your information, the section on our Registration Policy on English language skills reads:

For those applicants for whom English is not their first spoken language, evidence of a pass in the IELTS test of an average of 7.5 with no less than 7 in any one band. Applicants are exempt from this requirement if at least four years of their secondary schooling and their entire midwifery education programme took place in New Zealand. Applicants may also apply for exemption on other grounds. In this case applicants are required to provide letters of support from their Head of School and at least two midwives with whom the applicant has been with on clinical placement. Such applications will be considered on a case by case basis and must include evidence that the applicant reaches the required standard rather than being an application to waive the standard.

You will see our IELTS requirement is higher than yours and that average score of 7.5 is standard across all the health regulatory authorities in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

Sharron Cole
CEO/Registrar