

**From:** Anne Samuelson  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 December 2010 5:15 PM  
**To:** Kathleen Almond  
**Cc:** Alyson Smith  
**Subject:** Consultation on the English language skills registration standard

Dear Ms Copeland

At the on 2 December 2010 NSW State Board of the NMBA meeting, the Board considered the English language skills registration standard sent out for comment on 30 November 2010.

The State Board made the following comments:

1. The layout and format differs significantly to the current English language skills registration standard for all Boards. The State Board commented that it would be appropriate for the standard to follow a similar format/wording to other Boards, and to state upfront what the standard is, rather than stating the exemptions in the summary. For example, the wording in the summary of the Medical Board of Australia's English language standard is clearly stated;
2. It was noted that any reference to secondary schooling has been removed. The Board was of the view that evidence of secondary schooling in English should remain as a requirement in the standard as some of the exempted countries are bilingual or do not have English as their first language in some provinces, for example Canada and South Africa.
3. It is further noted by the State Board that the draft standard (paragraph three under 'Summary') refers to applicants who have been taught and assessed in English in their tertiary, entry to practice and /or midwifery education. However, the length of this course is not noted in the draft standard and the NSW Nursing and Midwifery Board previously required a minimum of two-years full time equivalent study in a Board approved course for an exemption to be granted;
4. In paragraph 3, under 'Summary' of the draft standard, the Board suggest the following wording is amended:  
*The Board considers that applicants who have been taught and assessed in English in their tertiary, entry to practice nursing and /or midwifery education in the countries listed her ~~should~~ meet this requirement, **unless evidence to the contrary is available.***  
The Board suggests that the word *should* is removed.
5. In paragraph one under 'Requirements' of the draft standard, the Board suggests that the word 'may' is replaced with 'are' to make a stronger statement, and that the phrase **unless evidence to the contrary is available** is added to the end of the sentence. For example, ...are to be considered to have met the English language skills registration standard, unless evidence to the contrary is available.

Regards  
Anne

**Ms Anne Samuelson**  
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