



Ms Kathleen Almond  
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency  
GPO Box 9958  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Ms Almond,

**RE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS REGISTRATION STANDARD CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) is pleased to take the opportunity to provide a response to the proposed new English language skills registration standard, available from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) website. The ANMAC, in conjunction with its new accreditation role, continues as the gazetted assessing authority for applications from internationally trained nurses and midwives for general skilled migration. We apologise for the delay in responding.

In May 2007 the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) undertook a project to develop nationally consistent standards for assessment of internationally trained nurses and midwives for registration and migration purposes. The project had unanimous support from the eight state and territory nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities. The final report produced six standards, five of which were accepted by the ANMC Board in November 2008, as the new national standards for registration and migration.

Standard 2 relates to English Language Requirements for nursing and midwifery professions. The project examined literature from several English speaking countries on various aspects of English proficiency, the validity of English testing, and the most common English tests used internationally.

The English language standard was implemented by the then existing eight State/Territory nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities on 1 July 2009. This standard is the current standard that ANMAC uses for the assessment of nurses and midwives for migration purposes. ANMAC English language requirements instruct all applicants to obtain at least 7.0 in all bands of the International English Language Testing System( IELTS) Academic test, or at least a B in all bands of the Occupational English test (OET) for Nurses test, and these scores must be achieved in one sitting of the test.

Current ANMAC standards do not provide for any exemptions of the provision of English Language Proficiency by internationally trained nurses/midwives. A copy of Standard 2 is attached.

ANMAC, in alignment with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, does not accept South Africa or Canadian French speaking provinces as countries where English is the native or first language. The two year validity of both the IELTS and the OET ensure that an applicant's proficiency in English language is an accurate reflection of their English language proficiency at the time of assessment. The Standard is also congruent with the standard set by the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) where the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement (TTMRA) is in place.

The ANMAC looks forward to continuing a collaborative relationship with NMBA to maintain the consistent assessment standards of nurses and midwives that have been developed to ensure the safety of the Australian community.

ANMAC consents to these comments being published on the NMBA website.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Adrian  
Chief Executive Officer

4 January 2011

Attachment:

**Standard Two: The applicant meets English Language Proficiency requirements for the nursing and midwifery professions.**

**Principle :**

English Language Proficiency is a regulatory requirement for registration and/or licensure and is essential for safe care and effective communication.

**Rationale:**

Health care providers, consumers and their families need to be confident that nurses and midwives can communicate effectively. Other professional groups within Australia have set a minimum score of 7 in the IELTS. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) recognises IELTS and OET as the official tests for the purposes of immigration to Australia.

**The Standard is met when** the applicant can demonstrate achievement of the required score in either the IELTS or OET English Language Test.

All applicants are required to meet the English Language Testing Criterion regardless of their country of origin.

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<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Assessment of Criterion</b>
1. The applicant must achieve a score of 7 in all areas of the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS); <u>or</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The applicant must achieve this score at a single test sitting and the test must have been completed within the last two years.</li><li>▪ The applicant can undertake the test either onshore or offshore.</li></ul>
2. The applicant achieves a B pass in all areas of the Occupational English Test (OET).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The applicant must organise for documentary evidence of the test outcome to be supplied directly to the regulatory authority.</li></ul>