



COAG Health Council

Associate Professor Lynette Cusack
Chair
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
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Dear Associate Professor Cusack

Approval of Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's proposed revised English language registration standard

Thank you for your letter of 23 May 2018, on behalf of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board) recommending approval of a revised *Registration standard: English language skills* (the revised registration standard).

I am pleased to advise that pursuant to section 12 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, the Ministerial Council decided on 22 August 2018, to approve the proposed revised registration standard as recommended by the Board.

In approving the registration standard, Ministers noted advice from the Board that the purpose of the registration standard's extended language pathway is to provide an effective balance between increased flexibility for applicants and public protection at the same time ensuring that the high level of English language skills required of registered health professionals in Australia is maintained. To support this pathway, Ministers noted the Board proposed minor changes to clarify that the requirement to complete at least five (5) years (full-time equivalent) education is continuous education. In addition some requirements to demonstrate English language competency using the extended language pathway were reworded to improve clarity and support the intended interpretation and application of the registration standard.

Ministers also agreed with the Board's proposal that the approved revised registration standard commence on publication by the Board.

Thank you for recommending that the revised registration standard be approved by the Ministerial Council and we trust that the Board will make arrangements to publish our approval as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Chair, Ministerial Council

26/9/ 2018

cc: Mr Martin Fletcher, CEO, AHPRA: martin.fletcher@ahpra.gov.au