

# Update for Education Providers Regarding Nursing and Midwifery Programs during Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic

## Accreditation Requirements

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) is the standards, Accreditation and assessment authority for the nursing and midwifery profession. Our purpose is to ensure the protection and promotion of health of the Australian Community by ensuring that the standards for nursing and midwifery education meet the standards for practice as required by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced that COVID-19 is a pandemic. To help slow down the spread the [Australian Government](#) has advised that effective from Monday 16 March 2020, organised non-essential meetings should be limited to 500 people. Non-essential meetings or conferences of critical workforces, such as health care professionals and emergency services, should be limited. This advice does not include workplaces, schools, universities, shops, supermarkets, public transport and airports.

The [Australian Government](#) has advised that to protect vulnerable Australians, visitors to all residential aged care facilities, and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities should be reduced.

Education providers must continue to ensure that student nurses and midwives meet the standards that programs have been accredited against to ensure that are able to register as a nurse or midwife by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Please ensure that your program still meets the following:

- Content and sequencing of the program of study continues to prepare the students for workplace experience
- For clinical components:
  - Students in Registered Nurse Programs have a minimum of 800 hours of workplace experience, not inclusive of simulation activities, that provide exposure to a variety of health-care settings.
  - Students in Enrolled Nurse Programs have a minimum of 400 hours of workplace experience, not inclusive of simulation activities, that provide exposure to a variety of health care settings
  - Students in Nurse Practitioner Programs have a minimum of 300 hours of integrated supernumerary practice
  - Students in Midwifery programs have enough workplace experience to complete the minimum midwifery practice requirements.
  - Students in Registered Nurse Re-entry programs have a minimum of 80-240 hours of workplace experience.

- Students in EPIQ Registered Nurse programs have a minimum of 240 hours of workplace experience.
- A summative assessment of student achievement of the relevant NMBA Standards of Practice conducted by the relevant registered health care professional on program completion.

In response to the evolving situation regarding COVID-19 in recognition to the challenges that Universities are facing regarding the delivery of Nursing and Midwifery Programs, ANMAC has determined the following:

- program delivery can be modified to manage the impact of COVID-19, this includes mode of delivery such as online academic component
- time tabling of clinical experience (some universities are prioritising 3<sup>rd</sup> year clinical placements), and workplace experience
- ANMAC accreditation and monitoring physical site visits have been cancelled and may be replaced with a zoom meeting where appropriate. Education providers with scheduled visits will be contacted by the ANMAC Associate Director to discuss arrangements.

Please provide ANMAC with information about any program modification that will be implemented to manage the impact of COVID-19 on program delivery e.g. mode of delivery, timetabling of workplace experience and other risk management strategies that you would be normally required to provide notification to ANMAC.

Please table these modifications and forward to [accreditation@anmac.org.au](mailto:accreditation@anmac.org.au) – education providers are not required to submit supporting evidence at this time.

Please contact Dr Margaret Gatling if you have any questions regarding this information.

Fiona Stoker

Chief Executive Officer