

COMMUNIQUÉ

ANMAC Board determination regarding the review and development of the accreditation standards for entry programs for internationally qualified registered nurses (EPIQ RN)

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) is in the process of reviewing the *Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses: Re-entry to the Register Standards Registered Nurses (2010)* (RN Re-entry) and development of accreditation standards for Entry Programs for Internationally Qualified Registered Nurses (EPIQ RN).

The First Consultation Paper was circulated to key stakeholders including education providers who have currently accredited RN Re-entry and/or EPIQ RN programs, education providers who have submissions with ANMAC for assessment of RN Re-entry and/or EPIQ RN programs and made available on the ANMAC website. Three initial consultation forums have been held in Melbourne on 24 April 2013, Perth on 30 April 2013 and Brisbane on 7 May 2013. At these forums stakeholder views were captured along with feedback to ANMAC on the content of the Consultation Paper and questions posed within.

The Expert Advisory Group overseeing the review process has analysed the feedback and developed the Second Consultation Paper and a draft set of Accreditation Standards for EPIQ RN programs. A report summarising the feedback was presented to the ANMAC Standards, Accreditation and Assessment Committee (the Committee) on 17 June 2013.

There are significant changes in policy approach being recommended for the standards; particularly in relation to standards for the EPIQ RN programs where no standards currently exist. It has become apparent that the re-entry standards that have been used as a proxy for the EPIQ RN standards are not suitable for this purpose.

This information and the recommendations from the Committee have been considered by the ANMAC Board (the Board) at the meeting held on 18 June 2013. The determination of the Board is that submissions received at ANMAC for EPIQ RN programs will not be progressed and will be required to address the new accreditation standards, once the standards have been approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

ANMAC will not be progressing applications for accreditation for entry programs for internationally qualified registered nurses at this time. It is anticipated that the accreditation standards for EPIQ RN may be available for use by education providers in the last quarter of 2013, once approved by the NMBA.

Please find attached a link to the [Second Consultation Paper](#) and [draft Accreditation Standards](#) for information. Please provide any feedback in relation to the draft standards via the [survey](#) or by submission to standardsreview@anmac.org.au.