



Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (inc) DANA

Review of Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards Consultation Paper 3

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback during Stage 3 of the Consultation process.

By way of background, Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (DANA) is the peak professional association for nurses and midwives who specialise, or have a professional interest, in the field of drug and alcohol addiction.

Alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues are frequently under-detected and poorly assessed in many healthcare settings, including mental health care settings. DANA believes that inclusion of content addressing these issues in undergraduate nursing programs goes some way to improving this situation, as it is an issue for all areas of nursing to be aware of, not just those who work in Drug and Alcohol Services.

Unfortunately, many undergraduate nursing programs do not include content around alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues. DANA believes that inclusion of criteria addressing this absence in the ANMAC standards is vital.

The inclusion of the words *'also addressing problematic alcohol and other drugs across a wide variety of health care settings'* within section 3.9 would serve to address this omission.

3.9 The program includes:

- a) a discrete unit addressing mental health taught by a registered nurse with a formal qualification in mental health*
- b) mental health content embedded throughout the program.*

Darren Smyth



President: DANA
12th February 2019

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