

**Review of Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards
Consultation Paper 3
Submission – School of Nursing and Midwifery
Edith Cowan University**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Review of Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards Consultation Paper 3. Feedback is provided on specific criteria.

Proposed Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards

Standard 1: Safety of the public

1.2 The program is delivered in Australia to prepare graduates for safe and ethical practice.

1.2 conflicts with 3.2 in that 1.2 implies the entire program is delivered in Australia whereas 3.2 states no more than one semester of the program is completed outside Australia.

In addition, when a nurse trained and obtained registration as a nurse overseas he or she was able to complete the 3rd year of a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) program in Australia and, following successful completion, apply for registration in Australia. The standard as written would prevent this pathway from occurring, and requires modification or development of a separate criterion to address this point.

Standard 2: Governance

Supportive of the standard as written

Standard 3: Program of study

3.2 Teaching and learning reflects contemporary practices in health and education, and responds to emerging trends based on research, technology and other forms of evidence. No more than one semester of the program is completed outside of Australia.

As identified in 1.2 above, this statement is in conflict with *'the program is delivered in Australia'* and in conflict with 2.4 in that some block pathways may be more than one semester and may include international collaborations and programs.

It is fully recognised that the program must *'prepare graduates for safe and ethical practice'* however consideration needs to be given to how this is achieved. Providers of programs that lead to registration must by standard 2.1 be registered with TEQSA and as such are self-accrediting bodies in term of block credits or advanced standing as recognised in standard 2.4

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.

The Higher Education Standards 3.2 clearly articulate requirements for academic staff teaching into a program as follows:

Staff with responsibilities for academic oversight and those with teaching and supervisory roles in courses or units of study are equipped for their roles, including having:

- a. knowledge of contemporary developments in the discipline or field, which is informed by continuing scholarship or research or advances in practice*
- b. skills in contemporary teaching, learning and assessment principles relevant to the discipline, their role, modes of delivery and the needs of particular student cohorts, and*
- c. a qualification in a relevant discipline at least one level higher than is awarded for the course of study, or equivalent relevant academic or professional or practice-based experience and expertise, except for staff supervising doctoral degrees having a doctoral degree or equivalent research experience.*

The requirement for a discrete unit addressing mental health to be only taught by 'a registered nurse with a formal qualification in mental health' is overly prescriptive and is at risk of excluding appropriately qualified academic staff utilising the higher education standards as the benchmark. It should also be recognised that nurses in Australia have been prepared to work in both a mental health and generalist setting for many years and that academics could hold a Masters and/or PhD with a research interest in mental health but not hold a formal qualification in mental health. The broader criteria in 3.12 is more appropriate and the requirement to hold a formal qualification in mental health should be removed.

3.10 The program includes:

- a) A minimum of 800 hours of professional experience placement, exclusive of simulation and not exceeding 130 hours (one sixth) undertaken outside of Australia.*
- b) Professional experience placements underpinned by contractual agreements between education providers and placement providers.*

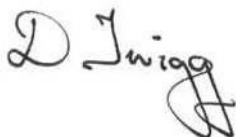
As identified in 1.2 when a nurse trained and obtained registration as a nurse overseas, he or she was able to complete the 3rd year of a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) program and following successful completion apply for registration in Australia. 3.10 would preclude internationally qualified registered nurses from completing this pathway. The development of a separate criterion to address internationally qualified registered nurses from other countries entering Australian programs of study needs to be addressed within these standards.

Standard 4: Student Experience

Supportive of the standard as written

Standard 5: Student assessment

Supportive of the standard as written



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