
CONSULTATION ON:

Project to Develop Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses Re-Entry to the Register Standards Draft 3 – Midwives January 2010

A project of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council

Feedback form

Instructions

The headings and questions on this form follow the structure of the documents *Draft Accreditation Standards and Criteria for Courses Leading to Re-entry to the Register for Nurses and Midwives*. The intention of the form is to make it easier for you to provide us with feedback on the document. Your comments need not be confined to the space provided or to those questions included in the feedback form as these are only prompts. Whilst not specifically sought you are also welcome to make comments on the literature review.

Please complete a separate feedback form for each set of standards you are commenting on.

Electronic responses are preferred.

Please return this form by **Friday 19 March 2010 to:**

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Please tick which standards you
are commenting on (please use
a separate feedback form for

Registered Nurse

Enrolled Nurse

each one):

X Midwife

General comments

Do you have any comments about the document as a whole? Is the document accessible and easy to use?

Explanations of Terms

Is the explanation of terms comprehensive? Are there any additional terms that should have been included? Are there any explanations of terms that you feel are incorrectly defined? How would you define them? Do you have any further comments on the explanation of terms?

Domain 1 Course Management

Standard 1: Governance

We would recommend that these courses are offered within a university environment where students have access to the broader governance structures within the university sector .To achieve this we believe re entry courses should be offered within established schools of nursing and midwifery where substantive courses in midwifery are offered thus ensuring the supportive infrastructure and expertise is available to students.

Standard 2: Teaching Staff

We support this standard to ensure breadth and quality of teaching experience in

contemporary midwifery for students

Standard 3: Students

Students will be well supported within this standard, which also demonstrates principals of equity and fairness

Standard 4: Course Length and Structure

1) That the total length and structure of the course is sufficient to allow effective development of all the ANMC National Competency Standards for the Midwife.

The course length needs to be recognisant of the fact that students will come from a wide variety of experience and background. The content length and structure of the course should be standard to all students

To recognise the variety of need across the spectrum of potential applicants for the course we would propose an opting out of mandatory course elements where credit is given for previous recency of study and experience (To explain this further we would determine the needs of a midwife who has not been active within the profession for 20 years to be very different to those of a midwife who completed her education 7 years ago to have her family but has remained professionally up to date with readings etc)

Domain 2 Curriculum

Standard Five: Curriculum Content

This is an excellent well worded standard that incorporates current contemporary philosophy and standards succinctly

Standard Six: Approaches to Teaching and Learning

This standard does recognise current pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning but could be expanded to promote flexibility in terms of course delivery

and incorporation of a blended learning approach in order to recognise the need within Australia to provide practitioners within rural and remote Australia.

Standard Seven: Student Assessment

This standard comprehensively articulates the professional requirements of a fair and equitable assessment process. We value the fact that it is wholly based on competency standards and recognises different approaches to learning by promoting a flexible approach to assessment. We also welcome the inclusion in the standard of the collaborative approach to assessment between the provider and industry

Standard 8: Professional Experience

This standard will effectively determine the length of courses in its current form. To achieve the requirements of the Continuity of Care experience Students will need to be enrolled in a return to practice for at least 6 months if women are recruited in early pregnancy and cared for up to 6 weeks after birth.

In order to ensure the experience is meaningful we would recommend that the document contain not only a definition of continuity of care but also some objective guidance as to the clinical requirements around that experience eg

- attendance at least 5 pregnancy assessments, commencing prior to 24 weeks gestation
- attendance at the women's labour and birth
- attendance at 3 early post natal assessments with an additional final assessment between 4-6 weeks post partum

Clinical requirements for re-registration should be explicitly stated in the document and we believe that in order to fulfil the clinical requirements the minimum length of this course should be 6 months full-time equivalent. Students should be required to do a stated minimum number of continuity of care experiences within that timeframe.

Standard 9: Research

We feel the preceding 8 standards will ensure that this standard would be met and welcome the fact that the standards adopt evidence based approach throughout