

# Review of the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards consultation: APNA submission

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25 November 2015

The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council's Review of the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards consultation. We are providing this submission on behalf of our membership, Australian primary health care nurses.

## APNA Submission

In the below submission we have addressed some of the questions raised in the online survey published on ANMAC's website.

### **Q3. Do you support the inclusion of proposed criterion 3.6 in the revised enrolled nurse accreditation standards?**

APNA supports the inclusion of proposed criterion 3.6 in the revised enrolled nurse accreditation standards.

We feel it is crucial that enrolled nurses are exposed to a wide variety of health care settings, particularly those in primary health care. To provide clarification, we believe criterion 3.6 could be reworded to state as follows: *'A minimum of 400 hours... and providing exposure to a broad range of tertiary and primary health-care settings...'*

### **Q4. Do you support the inclusion of proposed program content as specified in the following criteria in Standard 4 of the draft Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards?**

APNA supports the inclusion of criteria 4.2 to 4.8 in Standard 4 of the draft Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards. We are particularly encouraged to see reference to community health in criterion 4.8, as this recognises the environment in which primary health care nurses work.

### **Q5. – Q 8. Questions regarding criterion 5.6 (assessment of English language skills)**

APNA is of the view that it is vital for enrolled nurses to have a high level of proficiency in English to ensure the safety of the patient community. APNA supports the proposal that program providers are required to formally assess whether students meet the minimum level of English language skills prior to undertaking supervised workplace experience.

**Q9. Please review all standards and criteria in the first draft of the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards and provide feedback in relation to identified issues, omissions, gaps, duplications or errors**

*Standard 4*

APNA is of the view that the workplace experience plan incorporated in Standard 4.1 (e) should include a range of primary health care settings.

*Standard 8*

- APNA is of the view that the workplace experiences referred to in Standard 8 should include a range of primary health care settings.
- APNA is of the view that a requirement for mentorship (along with preceptorship) should be referenced in this Standard.
- Standard 8.5 – APNA welcome the references to supervision, support, facilitation and assessment in this Standard, which are all essential to ensuring students can achieve the intended learning outcomes.

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## About APNA

Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) is the peak professional body for nurses working in primary health care. APNA champions the role of primary health care nurses; to advance professional recognition, ensure workforce sustainability, nurture leadership in health, and optimise the role of nurses in patient-centred care.

APNA is bold, vibrant and future-focused. We reflect the views of our membership and the broader profession by bringing together nurses from across Australia to represent, advocate, promote and celebrate the achievements of nurses in primary health care.

Nurses in primary health care contribute to a healthy Australia through innovative, informed and dynamic care.

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