To whom it may concern

Re: Accreditation Standards for Re-entry to the Register – Registered Nurse 2013

Australian College of Nursing (ACN) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Accreditation Standards for Re-entry to the Register – Registered Nurse 2013 dated 16 December 2013 (the draft Standards). ACN congratulates the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council on the development of the final consultation draft and we provide the following general feedback for consideration.

Based on recurring comments received from ACN members in response to the consultation, it appears that the draft Standards are causing some uncertainty regarding their interpretation, including amongst educators. ACN suggests that the final version of the Standards include clarification on a number of points to promote a better understanding of the Standard. Amplifications should comprehensively explain and contextualise the draft Standards and both Pathways in relation to the relevant Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Standards. ACN members sought elucidation of the following issues:

➢ The reason for the broad range of work place experience hours within Standard 3. ACN suggests the inclusion of guidance on how assessment of required hours of work experience is undertaken.
➢ The inconsistency in two Pathways with the same program objective of re-entry to the Register leading to academic awards at different levels on the Australian Quality Framework (e.g. Bachelor degree at level 7 and Graduate Certificate at level 8).
➢ How the proposed standard will result in a more cost effective pathway for applicants seeking re-entry to practice as claimed in the document.
➢ Lack of clarification in relation to nurses wanting to re-enter the register following removal from the register for medical or professional reasons.

Overall, ACN supports the draft Standards and recognises the Standards' benefits in ensuring the provision of quality education in re-entry RN programs and providing re-entry nurses with a nationally recognised qualification.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or discussion on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms FACN (DLF)
Chief Executive Officer

Jane January 2014