



Australian College of Nursing

REVIEW OF RE-ENTRY TO THE REGISTER ENROLLED NURSE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: CONSULTATION

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) submission to the Australian
Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)
(February 2019)

ACN response to ANMAC Review of Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards

General comment

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on ANMAC's *Review of Re-entry to the Register Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards: Consultation*. Reviewing these standards ensures that enrolled nurses returning to practice are provided with programs of study that support current practice.

Consultation Questions

Question 1

Do the proposed accreditation standards enable education providers to design and deliver a program of study that ensures graduates, seeking to return to the register, have the required knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet the NMBA Enrolled nurse standards for practice? Please provide an explanation for your answer.

Yes.

In particular, ACN supports the stance in standard 1.8; disallowing credit transfer or recognition of prior learning towards the completion of a re-entry course program. As noted by ACN members, it is important for students to ensure their focus is on current and evidence-based practice. This is further provided for in standard 2.4, which specifies how teaching and learning should be conducted to enable this approach.

Question 2

Should any criteria be added? Please identify and provide an explanation for your answer

ACN believes it is worth considering not only how long since ENs practiced but also the time between initial training and the units of study undertaken. Subject content changes in light of new evidence-based research and it is important to be familiar with new material.

The knowledge in standard 4.4 is critical and reinforces the need to understand the 'why', not just the 'how'. An example of this is the requirement to understand pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and the quality use of medicines relevant to the enrolled nurse legislated scope of practice.

ENs need to be skilled in conflict resolution, how to manage bullying in the workplace, as well as Work Health and Safety issues.

An emphasis should be placed on computer literacy and competency with the growing use of electronic health records. All nurses should be confident in using, navigating and understanding electronic health records in order not to overlook important information. It is also important that Enrolled Nurses are able to interact with a patient's electronic health record with the roll out of the My Health Record nationally and contribute in a positive way to digital technologies within health.

Question 3

Should any criteria be deleted? Please identify and provide an explanation for your answer.

No.

The criteria are important in ensuring that returning ENs are up-to-date in current understanding and practices.

Question 4

Are the proposed workplace experience placement hours sufficient to ensure competence to return to the register as an enrolled nurse?

ACN supports standard 8, stipulating that workplace experiences are conducted in settings that provide suitable opportunities that enable students to meet the current EN standards for practice. ACN members have expressed the importance of workplace experiences offering a variety of clinical settings, with the inclusion of mental health, to ensure that students are across the many changes that can occur.

Question 5

Please provide any other feedback about the structure and/or content of the proposed standards.

ENs in rural areas are not always in a position to undertake the re-entry to register course in metropolitan locations, so consideration should be given to allow people the option of studying close to home.

The structure and content is comprehensive and provides rationale for how all the proposals are to function. It enables the returning candidates to obtain the education required to be able to perform within their required scope of practice.