



Cambridge ESOL  
Regional Office Asia Pacific  
Suite 418, 147 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

t: +  
22 December 2010

Ms Kathleen Almond  
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency  
G.P.O. Box 9958  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Kathleen

Cambridge ESOL is delighted to have this opportunity to respond to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's consultation on the English language standard. Cambridge ESOL supports the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's commitment to the introduction of an English language standard at a level that ensures safe and competent care is delivered to the public.

As one of the partners responsible for IELTS we agree that the level of IELTS 7.0 is an appropriate standard for this group and support the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's commitment to rigorous testing of this level. Cambridge ESOL also believes the use of additional fit-for-purpose level testing would bring added depth and rigour to the testing system.

Fit-for-purpose testing is specific to the needs of the learner or the user, in contrast to a general purpose test which may be used by a range of learners and users.

In level testing all the questions in the test paper have the same level of difficulty, which corresponds to the English proficiency that is to be demonstrated. In range testing, like IELTS, the test paper has questions with a wide range of difficulty, from beginner to advanced level questions. A level test which is set at an established English language standard provides a very strong focus on measuring the level of English to be achieved and further encourages the learning of practical language skills to the required level.

Produced according to the same rigorous quality procedures as IELTS, the Cambridge English language assessments are recognised worldwide by professional organisations, employers, government bodies and educational organisations as proof of English language skills for work and study. Our level-based tests are designed to provide in-depth assessment of English language ability and a reliable confirmation of whether the candidate has achieved the level being tested.

In line with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's requirements for high-level English language skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing we suggest that Cambridge English: Advanced and Cambridge English: Proficiency (also known as Certificate in Advanced English and Certificate of Proficiency in English) would provide an equally suitable proof of English language abilities.

With this letter we have included some background information on Cambridge ESOL to provide an overview of the organisation and our English language exams. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia about how we may be able to assist you with your English language requirements.

Yours sincerely

**Duncan Rayner**  
Regional Manager, Asia and Australasia  
Cambridge ESOL