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**Student Services Officer**

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**Comments and feedback to AHPRA  
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
– English language skills registration standard.**

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I have read the above Draft standard on English language skills, however was unsure of some of the points identified, so rang AHPRA to clarify these issues. The person on the phone could not answer yes or no if a person was eligible to be approved by the registration board, only offering the advice that each application is looked at individually by the board upon registration.

A person born overseas is eligible to be accepted into the Diploma of Nursing through TAFESA to complete the 18 month training program at a cost to the student. If they successfully complete the Diploma course and then find out on applying for registration that they are not eligible for registration as a nurse, this makes the whole process of studying a complete waste of their time and money. It is therefore, important that they know up front if they will meet the eligibility requirements for registration as a nurse prior to commencing the course.

Within the Draft standard it states that they need to successfully pass at level 7 all four components of IELTS, or, apply using the alternative pathway of being taught and assessed within Australia so they “*may be considered to have met the English language skills registration standard.*” as stated below:

“Requirements:

An applicant who was taught and assessed in his or her tertiary, entry to practice nursing and/or midwifery education in English in the countries listed here:

- Australia
- Canada
- New Zealand
- Republic of Ireland
- South Africa
- United Kingdom and
- United States of America

may be considered to have met the English language skills registration standard. For graduates from programs of study approved by the Board (as published at the Board’s website at [www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au) under *Accreditation: Approved programs of study*), it is a requirement that

the head of school confirms to the Board that the applicant is safe to practise nursing and/or midwifery in a clinical setting, using the English language.”

I am currently supporting a prospective student who is applying to undertake the Diploma in Nursing. His situation is:

- Born in Fiji and completed all of his tertiary schooling in English. (This would not included as part of the English requirements as he studied in a country which is not listed.)
- Successfully completed the Certificate III in Aged Care in Australia (6 months program)
- Now applying to complete the Diploma in Nursing through TAFESA (18 month program)

Part of the requirements of registration is that they provide evidence of their English skills from their educational institution.

Would this person be accepted by the Registration Board if he presented evidence of the following two certificates which were taught and assessed in Australia:

- Certificate III in Aged Care
- Diploma in Nursing
- Letter from TAFESA stating that he has English language skills to practise nursing (What are the specifics that TAFESA would need to identify which would be acceptable by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.)

Generally, for other students applying who were born overseas, could it be presumed that by completing their Diploma of Nursing through TAFESA and providing confirmation from TAFESA regarding their English language skills, that they would be eligible for registration?

Clarification of these issues would greatly appreciated so that I could provide with informed information regarding registration for nursing for prospective students.

Thank you

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