

4. Your submission

Name of person or organisation

making the submission: Southern Health, Victoria

Contact person: Jo Begbie, Deputy Director of Nursing, Professional Practice

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Information about you

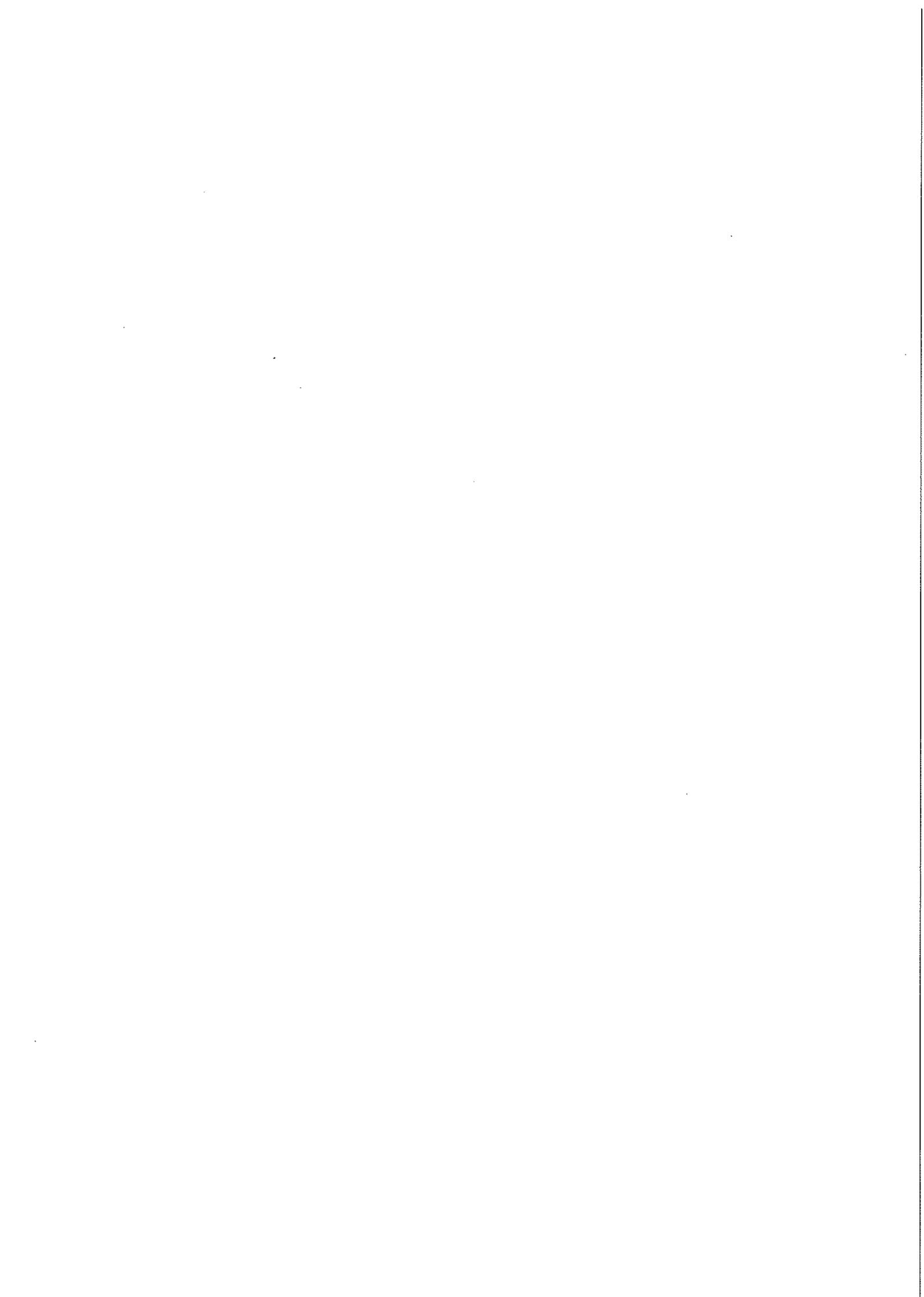
❖ **Are you responding as a/an** (please tick all that apply)

- Education provider
- Peak professional organisation
- Health consumer
- Community member
- Employer
- Government (eg Health Department)
- Government agency
- Health Workforce Australia
- TEQSA
- ASQA/State based VET sector regulatory authority
- Individual practitioner
- Other
--please specify Public Health Service

❖ **What experience have you had with the Accreditation Council?** (please tick all that apply)

Education Providers -

- The Accreditation Council has undertaken an accreditation assessment of one or more of our education programs since the introduction of the National Scheme
- We are currently planning for, or undergoing, an accreditation assessment on one or more of our education programs
- We are new to the accreditation process
- We have been through an accreditation process previously with a different accreditation body previously



❖ **Stage of accreditation assessment** (if you are currently involved in an accreditation process)

- Nearing completion
- Half way
- Just commenced
- Intention to apply submitted
- Planning and preparation underway
- Have sought information or advice from the Accreditation Council

❖ **Other stakeholders**

- Have sought information or advice from the Accreditation Council on other matters
- The Accreditation Council has consulted with us/me on Accreditation Standards, policy or individual accreditation assessments
- Involved the Accreditation Council activities eg accreditation or assessment processes
- Little or no direct engagement with the Accreditation Council
- Other –
please specify Involved via tertiary providers as an industry representative

Review of Accreditation Council against the Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function

5.1 Governance (Domain 1):

The Accreditation Council effectively governs itself and demonstrates competence and professionalism in the performance of its accreditation role

Attributes

- The Accreditation Council is a legally constituted body and registered as a business entity.
- The Accreditation Council's governance and management structures give priority to its accreditation function relative to other activities (or relative to its importance).
- The Accreditation Council is able to demonstrate business stability, including financial viability.
- The Accreditation Council's accounts meet relevant Australian accounting and financial reporting standards.
- There is a transparent process for selection of the governing body.
- The Accreditation Council's governance arrangements provide for input from stakeholders including input from the community, education providers and the profession/s.
- The Accreditation Council's governance arrangements comply with the National Law and other applicable legislative requirements.

Governance – Accreditation Council submission

The evidence that the National Board has taken into account in forming its preliminary view about governance is primarily on pages 10 to 13 of the ANMAC report published on the Board's website: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

❖ Comments

The ANMAC report describes a strong governance framework.

5.2 Independence (Domain 2):

The Accreditation Council carries out its accreditation operations independently

Attributes

- Decision making processes are independent and there is no evidence that any area of the community, including government, higher education institutions, business, industry and professional associations - has undue influence.
- There are clear procedures for identifying and managing conflicts of interest.

Independence – Accreditation Council submission

The evidence that the National Board has taken into account in forming its preliminary view about independence is primarily on pages 14 to 16 of the ANMAC report published on the National Board's website: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

❖ Comments

The ANMAC report describes processes that demonstrate independence.

5.3 Operational Management (Domain 3):

The Accreditation Council effectively manages its resources to carry out its accreditation function

Attributes

- The Accreditation Council manages the human and financial resources to achieve objectives in relation to its accreditation function.
- There are effective systems for monitoring and improving the authority's accreditation processes, and identification and management of risk.
- The authority can operate efficiently and effectively nationally.
- There are robust systems for managing information and contemporaneous records, including ensuring confidentiality.
- In setting its fee structures, the Accreditation Council balances the requirements of the principles of the National Law and efficient business processes.

Operational management – Accreditation Council submission

The evidence that the National Board has taken into account in forming its preliminary view about operational management is primarily on pages 17 to 19 of the ANMAC report published on the National Board's website: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

❖ Comments

ANMAC appears to operate effectively.

5.4 Accreditation standards (Domain 4):

The Accreditation Council develops accreditation standards for the assessment of programs of study and education providers

Attributes

- Standards meet relevant Australian and international benchmarks.
- Standards are based on the available research and evidence base.
- Stakeholders are involved in the development and review of standards and there is wide ranging consultation.
- The Accreditation Council reviews the standards regularly.
- In reviewing and developing standards, the Accreditation Council takes account of AHPRA's Procedures for Development of Accreditation Standards and the National Law.

Accreditation standards - Accreditation Council submission

The evidence that the National Board has taken into account in forming its preliminary view about accreditation standards is primarily on pages 20 to 21 of the ANMAC report published on the National Board's website: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

❖ Comments

The standards appear to be appropriate and currently meet service needs.

5.5 Processes for accreditation of programs of study and education providers (Domain 5):

The Accreditation Council applies the approved accreditation standards and has rigorous, fair and consistent processes for accrediting programs of study and their education providers

Attributes

- The Accreditation Council ensures documentation on the accreditation standards and the procedures for assessment are publicly available.
- The Accreditation Council has policies on the selection, appointment, training and performance review of assessment team members. Its policies provide for the use of competent persons who are qualified by their skills, knowledge and experience to assess professional programs of study and their providers against the accreditation standards.
- There are procedures for identifying, managing and recording conflicts of interest in the work of accreditation assessment teams and working committees.
- The Accreditation Council follows documented processes for decision-making and reporting that comply with the National Law and enable decisions to be made free from undue influence by any interested party.
- Accreditation processes facilitate continuing quality improvement in programs of study by the responsible education provider.
- There is a cyclical accreditation process with regular assessment of accredited education providers and their programs to ensure continuing compliance with standards.
- The Accreditation Council has defined the changes to programs and to providers that may affect the accreditation status, how the education provider reports on these changes and how these changes are assessed.
- There are published complaints, review and appeals processes, which are rigorous, fair and responsive.

Processes for accreditation of programs of study and education providers – Accreditation Council submission

The evidence that the National Board has taken into account in forming its preliminary view about processes for accreditation of programs of study and education providers is primarily on pages 22 to 24 of ANMAC report published on the National Board's website: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>. It is also based on the experience of the National Board in receiving accreditation reports for the accreditation decisions reported to the National Board for approval in the period 1 July 2010 to 1 August 2012.

❖ Comments

ANMAC appear to have rigorous processes although time frames for accreditation of courses have been noted to be lengthy. Of note is the fact that Victoria has a disproportionately high number of education providers and programs of study to accredit.

The length of time for a programme of study to be accredited may impact on the ability of an education provider to respond in a timely manner to feedback from the sector on programs of study.

5.8 Stakeholder collaboration (Domain 8):

The Accreditation Council works to build stakeholder support and collaborates with other national, international and/or professional accreditation authorities

Attributes

- There are processes for engaging with stakeholders, including governments, education institutions, health professional organisations, health providers, national boards and consumers/community.
- There is a communications strategy, including a website providing information about the Accreditation Council's roles, functions and procedures.
- The Accreditation Council collaborates with other national and international accreditation organisations.
- The Accreditation Council collaborates with accreditation authorities for the other registered health professions appointed under the National Law.
- The Accreditation Council works within overarching national and international structures of quality assurance/accreditation.

Stakeholder collaboration - Accreditation Council submission

The evidence that the National Board has taken into account in forming its preliminary view about stakeholder collaboration is primarily on pages 25 to 28 of the ANMAC report published on the National Board's website: <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

❖ Comments

The ANMAC report describes wide ranging stakeholder engagement.

5. Preliminary conclusion of the National Board about whether current arrangements are satisfactory

The National Board has undertaken a preliminary review of the current arrangements, including an analysis of risks, benefits and costs. The review was based on the submission provided by the independent Accreditation Council, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council [ANMAC] against the Quality Framework for the accreditation function as referenced in section 5 above and the National Board's experience working with the Accreditation Council over the past two years.

Proposed decision of the National Board based on a preliminary review of current arrangements including analysis of risks, benefits and costs

The National Board formed a preliminary view based on the ANMAC submission, that the current accreditation arrangement for an independent Accreditation Council is satisfactory and, that the accreditation function for the nursing and midwifery professions is to be exercised by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council beyond the period assigned by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (i.e 30 June 2013).

❖ To what extent are you in agreement with the preliminary view of the National Board?

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree

1

2

3

4

5

❖ Please provide comments about the National Board's preliminary view

Despite concerns regarding the timeliness of accreditation processes the current arrangements appear to be satisfactory. The alternatives offered are unlikely to be an improvement on the current arrangements. Therefore, Southern Health Nursing and Midwifery Executive support the National Board's preliminary decision.