

## TAFE NSW

### Consultation on draft English Language Skills Registration Standard

TAFE NSW has been a provider of Enrolled Nurse training since 1986 and currently offers both Certificate IV and Diploma qualifications in Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 Nursing) from the HLT07 Health Training Package. These courses are delivered in eighteen (18) Colleges across all ten TAFE NSW Institutes. Course structures, content, assessment, teacher qualifications and facilities for the delivery of these courses have been approved by the Nurses and Midwives Board of NSW as the registration body in NSW prior to the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2010 and the establishment of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

TAFE NSW has consulted with relevant staff across Institutes and offers the following comments on the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's *Consultation Draft on English language skills registration standard*.

TAFE NSW notes that the Board's English language requirements may be met by achievement of level 7 of the IELTS for each of the four components of the test or the OET for Nurses with a minimum of A or B score on each of the four components of the test.

TAFE NSW also notes the Board may consider applicants who have been taught and assessed in English in their tertiary entry to practice nursing and/or midwifery education in the countries listed to meet the required English language skills, providing 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.”

Across TAFE NSW, the Head Teacher, Nursing will be responsible for providing this confirmation/evidence to the Board. Knowing that the Board's expectation that the appropriate English language level is IELTS 7 on all four skills, there may be a perception that the teacher is confirming the student has achieved this level in English.

TAFE NSW suggests the above statement be changed to read:

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

The *safety* of any practitioner cannot be completely guaranteed, regardless of their English language competence. Assessment of a person's competency to practise nursing can only be made on available valid and reliable evidence at a particular time. TAFE NSW Head Teachers are able/willing to confirm that students are competent to perform and are work ready on completion of the course.

TAFE NSW welcomes the Board's review of English Language Skills Registration Standard and appreciates the opportunity to comment.