

9 April 2018

Education Providers
Diploma of Nursing Programs

Email to Education Providers delivering Diploma of Nursing Programs

Dear Education Provider

Delivery of Diploma of Nursing Programs not accredited by ANMAC

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) has been advised that there are a number of Registered Training Organisations (RTO) providing or intending to provide the Diploma of Nursing program in Australia without accreditation by ANMAC and approval by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). To clarify the expectations of both the NMBA and ANMAC in regard to programs of study and student registration we are writing to advise you as follows.

Program accreditation and approval

The usual pathway for new graduates of Australian domestic programs to qualify for registration as an Enrolled nurse is through the **approved qualification pathway** under section 53(a) of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act, as in force in each state and territory (National Law).

RTOs offering Diploma of Nursing programs must be aware that unless the program is accredited by ANMAC and approved by the NMBA at the commencement of the program, students of that program will not be eligible for registration under the **approved qualification pathway**.

ANMAC has regularly advised RTOs offering Diploma of Nursing programs that due to the short duration of the course students should not be enrolled in the program until the RTO receives correspondence from ANMAC to advise that the program is approved by the NMBA as an approved program of study, this position is fully supported by the NMBA. ANMAC cannot attest to the quality of nursing programs delivered by education providers in the tertiary or vocational education sectors that commence prior to the date of accreditation.

In line with Part 3 of the standards for Registered Training Organisations (2015), Obligations to Learners and Clients standards 4 and 5, RTO's have a responsibility to clearly advise students that a program not accredited by ANMAC and not approved by the NMBA **will not lead to registration** as an Enrolled nurse in Australia under the **approved qualification pathway**. ANMAC insists that prospective students are advised of the approval status of the Diploma of Nursing prior to enrolment. RTOs must also clearly state on their website and in any other information provided to prospective students about the accreditation status of the program and that the program is not an NMBA approved program and **will not lead to registration** as an Enrolled nurse in Australia.

Should your organisation consider that accreditation by ANMAC is not necessary as the entire student cohort are international students and are being educated to return to their country of origin the students must be fully informed that they will not be eligible for registration in Australia.

Student registration

All students of a program that is accredited by ANMAC and approved by the NMBA must be registered with the NMBA through notification to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) at enrolment and **prior to undertaking any clinical training**.

Where a Diploma of Nursing program is not accredited by ANMAC nor approved by the NMBA, the National Law section 91 (1) details the education provider's responsibility regarding the registration of students and notification to the NMBA **prior to undertaking any clinical training**;

'If an Education Provider arranges clinical training in a health profession for a person who is not enrolled in an approved program of study for the profession, the education provider must give the National Board established for the profession written notice about the arrangement'.

Clinical training **should not be undertaken in Australia** unless the student is registered by the NMBA, either through undertaking an approved program or in accordance with section 91 above.

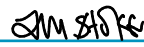
Nurses have a privileged role in society in that they provide nursing care to the community in a period when they are most vulnerable. It is for the safety and protection of the public that nurses are in a regulated profession and consequently should be afforded education that has met the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards developed by ANMAC and approved by the NMBA. Nurses are held to account for their practice and the accreditation standards are designed to ensure that Nurses educated at Diploma and Bachelor levels meet the respective Standards for practice.

We urge you not to enrol students that wish to register as Enrolled nurses in Australia into unaccredited and non-approved Diploma of Nursing programs in Australia.

Yours sincerely



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Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia



Fiona Stoker (Apr 9, 2018)

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