



## Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory

# Information for intending applicants with midwifery qualifications gained outside Australia

March 2005  
Reviewed May 2006

### **Purpose**

This information guide is intended to provide some basic information for people who have a midwifery qualification gained outside of Australia and who wish to practise as a midwife in the Northern Territory.

### **The Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory**

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory is the nurse and midwife regulatory authority for the Northern Territory, Australia. If you want to practise nursing or midwifery in the Northern Territory, you must hold a current licence issued by the Board.

To gain a licence to practise you must meet the requirements of Section 20 and Section 22 of the *Health Practitioners Act 2004*.

Section 20 empowers the Board to register a person if the Board is satisfied that you have experience and training that the Board considers is at least substantially equivalent to the successful completion of an accredited course in midwifery.

The requirements of Section 22 are as follows:

An applicant is entitled to be registered or enrolled in the category of registration or enrolment to which the application relates if the relevant Board is satisfied that the applicant –

- (a) is eligible to apply for the category of registration or enrolment;
- (b) is competent to practise in the category;
- (c) has sufficient physical and mental capacity to practise in the category;

- (d) has an adequate command of the English language;
- (e) has adequate professional indemnity arrangements in place; and
- (f) is of good character.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

#### **Do you hold current registration as a midwife or are you a registered nurse who is authorised to practise midwifery in Australia or New Zealand?**

If you hold current registration as a midwife or you are a registered nurse who is authorised to practise midwifery in any of the Australian states or territories or in New Zealand, you are automatically eligible to apply.

Please contact the Board for an application form to be sent to you.

#### **Do you want to migrate to Australia under the Skilled Migration Program?**

You need to contact the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council who will assess your qualifications and determine your eligibility to apply for registration.

Contact details for the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council are as follows:

Australian Nursing and Midwifery  
Council  
PO Box 873  
DICKSON ACT 2602  
Australia  
Email [www.anmc.org.au](http://www.anmc.org.au)

**Did you complete an education program as a midwife in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland and gained registration on completion in one of these countries?**

You are eligible to apply for registration as a midwife.

Please contact the Board and an application form will be sent to you.

**Did you complete a midwifery education program in a member state of the European Union and gained registration in that member state?**

You are eligible to apply for registration if:

1. the education institution or approved registering authority can verify that the midwifery education program you completed complied with the European directive 80/155;
2. you were registered as a midwife in the European Union member state where the midwifery qualification was obtained; and
3. you can demonstrate English language competence.

For the latest information on the member states of the European Union and information on directive 80/155 you should check the website [www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int)

If you can meet all the requirements, please contact the Board and an application form will be forwarded to you.

**Do you have current registration as a midwife in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, and your midwifery education was not undertaken in one of these countries?**

You are eligible to apply for registration but you must demonstrate English language competence.

The Board will waive the requirement to complete the International English Language Test System or the Occupational English Language Test if you have practised for at least 12-months full-time in one of these countries. The practise must have occurred within the 6 months immediately prior to applying for registration in the Northern Territory. See Appendix A.

If you can meet the above requirements please contact the Board and an application form will be sent to you.

**Do you have a qualification as a midwife that has been obtained in a country other than the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, or a member state of the European Union and you are not wishing to migrate to Australia?**

You are **not** immediately eligible to apply for registration. You will need to have your midwifery qualification assessed by the Board and you must demonstrate English language competence.

Please contact the Board and the assessment forms will be sent to you.

If your midwifery qualification is assessed as the equivalent of an Australian midwifery qualification you may be required to demonstrate competence to practise.

If your midwifery qualification is assessed as not the equivalent of an Australian midwifery qualification you cannot be registered as a midwife and will not be able to work as a midwife in Australia

### **Visa requirements**

The Board cannot advise about visa requirements. For information about visas you should contact the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

### **Translations**

The Board requires that all documents submitted with an application form or with an assessment form be a certified copy of the original and be accompanied by a translation. All translation costs must be paid by you.

All translations must be undertaken by an independent reputable translation service. It is expected that translations made in Australia, be by a government service, or translator for the particular language conversion, accredited at Level 3 or 4 by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, and this should be stated on the translated document. You will need to check the website for the latest information [www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au)

### **Certifying documents**

All documents submitted with an application or an assessment must be certified as a true copy of the original by a:

- Justice of the Peace;
- Commissioner for Oaths;
- Police Officer;
- Solicitor; or
- an authorised Health Professions Licensing Authority staff member

### **Contact details**

Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory  
GPO Box 4221  
Darwin NT 0801  
Tel: +61 8 8999 4157  
Fax + 61 8 8999 4196  
Email [healthprofessions.ths@nt.gov.au](mailto:healthprofessions.ths@nt.gov.au)

## Appendix 1

<b>HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>TITLE: English Language Competence Policy</b>	
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> October 2004	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b> March 2006
<b>NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW:</b> May 2006	
<b>BOARD:</b> Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory	

### **Purpose**

This policy has been developed to provide guidance to staff of the Health Professions Licensing Authority, members of the Nursing and Midwifery Board (the Board) the public, members of the nursing and midwifery professions and intending registrants regarding the Boards requirement relating to English language competence and in what circumstances the Board will waive the requirement to provide evidence of English language competence.

### **Supporting documents**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory Entitlement to Registration Policy.

### **Legislative requirements**

Section 22(1)(d) of the *Health Practitioners Act 2004*, states that an applicant is entitled to be registered or enrolled in the category of registration or enrolment to which the application relates if the relevant Board is satisfied that the applicant – “has an adequate command of the English language.”

The Board has determined that the following will apply:

Nurses and midwives educated in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the United States of America and English speaking Canada

Do not need to provide any evidence when applying for registration or enrolment about English Language Competence, however the Board has discretionary power to require an applicant to provide proof of English language competence at any time.

All other nurses and midwives educated overseas

Must provide documentary evidence that they meet the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council’s English language requirements which is an Academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) overall pass of 7 with no lower than 6.5 in the bands for reading and listening and a 7 in the bands for speaking and writing or the Occupational English Test (OET) at a B pass.

### **Waiver of requirement to provide documentary evidence of English language competence**

The Board has accepted the policies of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council in relation to waiver. There are only three instances when the Board will waive the requirement for a nurse or midwife to provide evidence of the completion of the IELTS or the OET. This will be when the nurse or midwife can provide documentary evidence that:

1. They have enrolled in a degree level program in Australia (on-shore) and completed at least 4 semesters, full time;
2. They have completed a nursing or midwifery program in South Africa and gained registration in South Africa through education that was in English; or
3. They are currently practising or have practised as a nurse or midwife in New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the United States of America and English

speaking Canada. The practise must have been for at least 12 months duration full-time and occurred within the 6 months immediately prior to applying for registration/enrolment in the Northern Territory.