



Demonstrating Competence: Information for Internationally Qualified Nurses and Midwives

PURPOSE

This information is intended to provide guidance to internationally qualified nurses and midwives seeking registration in the Northern Territory, but who are not automatically eligible for full or conditional registration under the *Entitlement to Registration Policy*.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

This information **MUST** be read in conjunction with the *Entitlement to Registration / Enrolment / Policy*; available at [www.nt.gov.au /health/registrationboards](http://www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards).

THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of the Northern Territory (the Board) is the nurse and midwife regulatory authority for the Northern Territory, Australia. In order to practice in the Northern Territory, nurses and midwives must be registered with the Board and hold a current license to practice.

The *Entitlement to Registration Policy* provides guidance to applicants regarding eligibility for full or conditional registration, based on where the applicant was educated or where the applicant is, or has been, registered. Those internationally qualified applicants who are **not automatically eligible to apply for full or conditional registration** under the *Entitlement to Registration Policy* will be required by the Board to demonstrate competence to practice in contemporary Australian health care settings. This requirement ensures that the Board meets the legislative obligation imposed by section 22(b) of the *Health Practitioners Act 2004* which 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 is competent to practise in the category.”

DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCE TO PRACTISE

The following information is provided as a guide to internationally qualified nurses and midwives who are required to provide evidence of competence to practice in the Australian health care system.

Option One: Successful Completion of a Board Accredited Bridging Program

Students do not require conditional registration for enrolment in a Board approved bridging program. Students successfully completing a bridging program will be eligible to apply for full registration.

Option Two: Successful Completion of a Board Accredited Competency Assessment Program

In order to be eligible to participate in a Board accredited competency assessment program, applicants must be conditionally registered with the Board. Conditional registration for the purposes of participation in a competency assessment program is dependent upon the applicant providing evidence of an assessment of their nursing or midwifery qualifications. There are four pathways to conditional registration for the purposes of completing a Board accredited competency assessment program, each of which is detailed below:

Pathway 1: The applicant provides evidence of an assessment of their nursing or midwifery qualification by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC).

If the applicant has been assessed by the ANMC as being a suitable candidate for participation in a competency assessment program, the applicant is eligible to apply for conditional registration. Applicants meeting all the Board's requirements for conditional registration, including English language competence, will be offered a letter of eligibility for conditional registration to undertake a competency assessment program. Letters of eligibility are valid for 12 months from the date of issue. Conditional registration will be issued on notice of a commencement date in the competency assessment program. Applicants successfully completing a Board accredited competency assessment program will be eligible to apply for full registration.

Pathway 2: The applicant provides evidence of an assessment of their nursing qualification by another Australian or New Zealand regulatory authority.

If the applicant has been assessed by the ANMC as being a suitable candidate for participation in a competency assessment program, the applicant is eligible to apply for conditional registration. Applicants meeting all the Board's requirements for conditional registration, including English language competence, will be offered a letter of eligibility for conditional registration to undertake a competency assessment program. Letters of eligibility are valid for 12 months from the date of issue. Conditional registration will be issued on notice of a commencement date in the competency assessment program. Applicants successfully completing a Board accredited competency assessment program will be eligible to apply for full registration.

Pathway 3: The applicant provides evidence of an offer of a place on a Board accredited competency assessment program.

In this circumstance, the Board will apply to the ANMC for an assessment of the applicant's qualification on behalf of the applicant. If the applicant is assessed by the ANMC as being a suitable candidate for participation in a competency assessment program, the applicant is eligible to apply for conditional registration. Applicants meeting all the Board's requirements for conditional registration, including English

language competence, will be offered a letter of eligibility for conditional registration to undertake a competency assessment program. Letters of eligibility are valid for 12 months from the date of issue. Conditional registration will be issued on notice of a commencement date in the competency assessment program. Applicants successfully completing a Board accredited competency assessment program will be eligible to apply for full registration.

Pathway 4: The applicant provides evidence of residency in the Northern Territory¹.

In this circumstance, the Board will apply to the ANMC for an assessment of the applicant's qualification on behalf of the applicant. If the applicant is assessed by the ANMC as being a suitable candidate for participation in a competency assessment program, the applicant is eligible to apply for conditional registration. Applicants meeting all the Board's requirements for conditional registration, including English language competence, will be offered a letter of eligibility for conditional registration to undertake a competency assessment program. Letters of eligibility are valid for 12 months from the date of issue. Conditional registration will be issued on notice of a commencement date in the competency assessment program. Applicants successfully completing a Board accredited competency assessment program will be eligible to apply for full registration.

CONTACTS

To learn more about the requirements of registration / enrolment / authorisation in the Northern Territory, or the role and function of the Nursing and Midwifery Board, please visit the Board's website at www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards or contact the Board at:

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¹ Evidence of residency in the Northern Territory will be determined on a case by case basis.