



HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY	
TITLE: English Language Competence Policy	
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 2004	LAST REVIEWED: June 2009
BOARD: 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.

Supporting documents

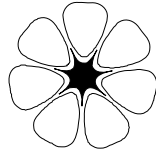
This policy should be read in conjunction with the Board's Entitlement to Registration Policy, and the Information Guides for Overseas Educated Nurses and Midwives.

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.*"

In order to meet this legislative requirement, the Board determined to set a minimum standard of English language competence for all nurses and midwives seeking registration or enrolment in the Northern Territory who have undertaken their nursing education outside. These requirements are set out below.

1. ALL applicants applying for registration who have undertaken their nursing education outside Australia must demonstrate English language competence.
2. ALL applicants required to demonstrate English language competence must achieve the prescribed test result as set out below:
 - A. International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – Academic test: a score of at least 7 in all four components of IELTS (Reading; Listening; Writing and Speaking) with an overall band score of at least 7;
 - OR**
 - B. Occupational English Test (OET) – Nursing Version: a B pass or above in all four sections.
3. ALL applicants must achieve the above scores at a single test sitting.
4. The English Language Tests results are only valid for two (2) years from the date of the test.
5. The test can be undertaken either onshore or offshore.



6. The applicant must organise for documentary evidence of the test outcomes to be supplied directly to the Board, or provide the Board with a certified copy of the original test results.
7. From 1 July 2009, ANY and ALL nurses and midwives who have undertaken their nursing education outside Australia will be required to demonstrate English language competence regardless of country of origin. The Board will not consider requests for exemptions or waivers of this requirement.