

Prolongation of Accreditation Policy

Owner: Accreditation
Revision: 3.0
Date of Issue: 7 February 2024

Table of contents

Glossary	3
1. Purpose.....	3
2. Scope	3
3. Policy statement	3
4. Principles	3
5. Roles and responsibilities.....	4
6. Related documents, legislation and standards.....	5
7. Policy management	5

Glossary

Glossary terms in the prolongation of accreditation policy document appear in ANMAC's online glossary. It is available on ANMAC's website (<https://www.anmac.org.au/glossary>).

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) grants a prolongation to a period of accreditation for nursing or midwifery programs in accordance with Section 48(1) of *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law) and approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA), as an approved program of study in accordance with Section 49(1) of the National Law.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all ANMAC accredited and NMBA approved nursing and midwifery education programs of study.

3. Policy statement

ANMAC must assess programs of study and the education providers that provide the programs of study, to determine whether nursing and midwifery entry to practice and endorsement programs meet the relevant approved accreditation standards in accordance with Section 48 of the National Law (2009).

An accreditation authority for a health profession may accredit a program of study if, after assessing the program, the authority is reasonably satisfied:

- a. the program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, meet an approved accreditation standard for the profession; or
- b. the program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, substantially meet an approved accreditation standard for the profession and the imposition of conditions on the approval will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time.

ANMAC must monitor approved programs of study and the education provider that provides the program to ensure the program and education provider continue to meet an approved accreditation standard for the nursing and midwifery professions in accordance with Section 50 of the National Law.

Therefore, a prolongation of accreditation period must only be granted if ANMAC continues to be satisfied that the ANMAC accredited program of study and education provider continue to meet an approved accreditation standard in accordance with Section 50 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law) and delivery of the program is within the accreditation expiry date.

4. Principles

Under the National Law, ANMAC's responsibility extends to ensuring programs and education providers continue to meet relevant accreditation standards across the accreditation period. To fulfil this function ANMAC has in place a process of prolongation of accreditation period, if this is required. A prolongation of accreditation period must only be granted if ANMAC continues to be satisfied that the program of study and provider continues to meet an approved accreditation standard in accordance with Section 50 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law) and delivery of the program is within the accreditation expiry date.

ANMAC will manage requests for prolongation of the accreditation expiry date in accordance with this policy in a transparent, fair, and timely way.

4.1 The request to prolong an accredited education program of study may be initiated by ANMAC or the education provider.

4.2 Programs on superseded accreditation standards are not eligible for prolongation of the accreditation expiry date.

4.3 Initiation of the prolongation of an accreditation expiry date must occur before a program reaches the accreditation expiry date.

4.4 The Director of Accreditation Services will undertake a risk assessment of the program and provider and provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer regarding prolongation of the accreditation expiry date.

4.5 The circumstance under which a prolongation of accreditation period will be considered are:

ANMAC initiated prolongation request

ANMAC must advise education providers of the need to prolong their program's accreditation expiry date to:

- align accreditation submissions with the introduction of new accreditation standards

Education Provider initiated prolongation request

ANMAC may consider requests from education providers to prolong their accreditation expiry date if the following reasons can be substantiated, to:

- align accreditation of multiple programs in order to reduce cost and impost on staff
- facilitate enrolment of students during the accreditation assessment process
- facilitate enrolment of students awarded block credit into a program when the program has entered teach-out or transition e.g. enrolment of registered enrolled nurses into year 2 of a Bachelor of Nursing program
- facilitate the development of a program due to the introduction of a new National Health Training Package
- manage a significant organisational restructure, which disrupts expected timeframe for preparing accreditation submission.

4.6 The Chief Executive Officer makes the final determination regarding the prolongation a program of study's accreditation expiry date and advises the NMBA.

5. Roles and responsibilities

The Chief Executive Officer has overall responsibility for ensuring ANMAC continues to be satisfied the ANMAC accredited and NMBA approved programs of study are being delivered against the approved accreditation standards and within the accreditation expiry date. The Chief Executive Officer has discretionary powers in relation to this policy.

6. Related documents, legislation and standards

Related Documents	Accreditation Policy and Procedure Transition and Teach-out Policy Complaint Handling Policy Monitoring Policy
--------------------------	---

7. Policy management

Name of the Policy	Prolongation of Accreditation Policy	
Policy Number	POLS2018OCEO041	
Description of Policy	This policy describes the principles surrounding prolongations to accreditation expiry dates for nursing and midwifery programs accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council.	
Category	Accreditation	
Audience	This policy applies to all ANMAC staff, education providers and stakeholders.	
Status	New Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of Existing Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Last Revised	February 2024	
Next Review	February 2026	

Endorsed by	Executive team	Date: 7 February 2024
Responsible Officer	Director of Accreditation Services	
Author	Accreditation Services	
Approved by	Greg Cantwell – Acting CEO	Date: 7 February 2024
Signed		