

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is ANMAC?

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) is the independent accrediting authority for the nursing and midwifery professions under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. ANMAC commenced operations on 1 July 2010.

ANMAC is accountable to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) for assuring the Australian community that graduates of accredited programs can practise and care for people in a safe and competent manner.

The nursing and midwifery professions inform our work and our Board includes directors from a wide range of stakeholder organisations, enabling us to incorporate expert and community views into our decision making.

What are ANMAC accreditation standards?

Accreditation focuses on the capacity of education providers and on the quality of educational programs they offer.

ANMAC is responsible for maintaining the currency and integrity of accreditation standards for nursing and midwifery programs leading to registration and endorsement in Australia. We use the standards to assess programs to ensure graduates achieve quality learning outcomes.

Developing or reviewing accreditation standards for entry to practice and re-entry to practice programs is part of a broader process of assuring the community, that having completed an accredited program, practitioners have achieved outcomes agreed to by the profession and are able to practise safely and in a manner equipped with the necessary foundation knowledge, professional motivations and essential skills.

Why have the Accreditation Standards for Enrolled Nurse Programs been revised?

ANMAC regularly reviews and improves accreditation standards used to assess programs, to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness in contemporary education and health care environments.

The ANMAC *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* replace the *Enrolled Nurses: Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses Leading to*

Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia—with Evidence Guide February 2009 published by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC).

What are the main changes to the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017*?

The ANMAC *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* now incorporate the same standard titles, concepts, terminology and, in most cases, definitions used in other ANMAC accreditation standards. The structure of the revised accreditation standards is described in Table 1.

Table 1: Comparison of 2009 and 2017 standard structure

Standard Number	2009 ANMC Standard Structure	2017 ANMAC Standards Structure
Standard 1	Governance	Governance
Standard 2	Academic staffing	Curriculum conceptual framework
Standard 3	Students	Program development and structure
Standard 4	Course length and structure	Program content
Standard 5	Curriculum content	Student assessment
Standard 6	Approaches to teaching and learning	Students
Standard 7	Student assessment	Resources
Standard 8	Professional experience	Management of workplace experience
Standard 9	Research	Quality improvement and risk management

Several qualitative changes have been integrated across the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017*. The most significant relate to education providers being required to demonstrate:

- governance arrangements with health service providers that support the monitoring of students' learning and teaching while undertaking workplace experience (1.9)
- that the required minimum of 400 hours of workplace experience includes only hours *successfully completed* by the student (3.6)
- the program is delivered within Australia, including workplace experience (4.7)
- elective units in the program are relevant to community's health priorities as determined through consultation with key stakeholders (4.8)
- assessment of student competence in pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and the quality use of medicines relevant to the enrolled nurse legislated scope of practice (5.8)

- published program entry criteria that require *applicants* to provide formal evidence of meeting minimum level requirements for English language, literacy and numeracy skills (6.1a and b; 6.2)
- staff recruitment strategies that ensure cultural inclusivity and affirmative action for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (7.4)
- staff teaching enrolled nurse practice units are NMBA registered enrolled *or* registered nurses with at least one qualification standard higher than the program of study being taught (7.7 and 7.8)
- adequate indemnification of students and staff undertaking activities as part of program requirements (9.6).

What consultation process did ANMAC undertake when revising these accreditation standards?

In developing an accreditation standard for a health profession, the law governing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme requires accreditation authorities to undertake wide-ranging consultation on the content of accreditation standards.

The review of the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* was guided by an Expert Advisory Group selected for expertise in consumer advocacy; enrolled nursing practice, education and research; health service delivery and management; regulation and accreditation; professional and industrial matters and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The Expert Advisory Group oversaw all aspects of the review, including stakeholder consultation and synthesis of stakeholder feedback in the revised accreditation standards. Key stakeholders were invited to engage in the consultation process through written submissions or online surveys accessible during two six-week periods of public consultation. Additionally, stakeholders were invited to attend any of the consultation forums held in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane.

Stakeholder feedback from these consultation processes enabled ANMAC to capture perspectives from consumers, clinicians, education providers in both the Vocational Education Training and higher education sectors, the Industry sector, the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives, the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia-*plus*, numerous professional colleges - including the Australian College of Nursing, the Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand), the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, the Australian Skills Quality Authority and the Health Workforce Principal Committee.

What advice did ANMAC seek from the Office of Best Practice Regulation when revising these accreditation standards?

All accreditation standards developed by ANMAC must now be submitted to the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) for review prior to approval by the NMBA.

The OBPR is a division within the Australian Government's Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet but has independence from the Department in assessing and reporting on compliance with the best practice regulation requirements. The OBPR assesses whether Regulation Impact Statements are required.

In preparing the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017, ANMAC consulted with the OBPR and provided feedback to the NMBA on the potential regulatory impacts provided in the consultation process and identified in developing the revised accreditation standards.

When do the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* come into effect?

The ANMAC *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* are effective from 20 June 2017. This is the date the accreditation standards were published by ANMAC after receiving approval from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia on 24 May 2017.

Why has the name of the Standards changed?

Historically, Diploma of Nursing Programs have referred to the accreditation standards, *Enrolled Nurses: Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses Leading to Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia—with Evidence Guide February 2009*. The standards have been renamed to enable easy identification of the practitioner type to which they apply. The name of the program of study is specified within the revised *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017*.

Are previous accreditation standards for enrolled nurse programs still valid?

Previously, Diploma of Nursing Programs were accredited against the *Enrolled Nurses: Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses Leading to Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia—with Evidence Guide February 2009* published by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC).

The *Enrolled Nurses: Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses Leading to Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia—with Evidence Guide February 2009* will continue to be used to monitor and assess changes to programs that were accredited against this version of the standards.

With the release of the ANMAC *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* the submission of applications for accreditation of programs based on the ANMC *Enrolled Nurses: Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses Leading to Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia—with Evidence Guide February 2009* will no longer be accepted by ANMAC.

How do the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* affect education providers with a currently accredited program?

Education providers who have a currently accredited Diploma of Nursing program who are not seeking to change their program following the release of the revised accreditation standards do not need to take any action.

All future applications for the accreditation of Diploma of Nursing programs will need to address the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017*.

How do the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* affect education providers planning to run a Diploma of Nursing program in the future?

From 20 June 2017, all education providers submitting a Diploma of Nursing program to ANMAC for accreditation will need to address the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017*. Information on the requirements for this submission are contained in the application pack. Please email accreditation@anmac.org.au to discuss your planned application.

How do the *Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017* affect students currently enrolled in a Diploma of Nursing program?

Students are advised to contact their education provider to discuss whether the new accreditation standards will affect their program.

Where can I find further information about the ANMAC Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017?

Further information on the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017 is available on the [ANMAC website](#).

Education providers should direct all questions to the accreditation@anmac.org.au or phone 02 6274 9166.

**Office of the CEO
20 June 2017**