

## 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 Re-entry to practice 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 Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020 replace the Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses: Re-entry to the Register Standards, Enrolled Nurses May 2010.

## What are the main changes to the Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020?

The Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020 follow the nine-standard format, same as the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards that were published in 2017. The structure of the revised accreditation standards no longer features Domains as described in Table 1.

**Table 1: Comparison of 2010 and 2020 standard structure**

STANDARDS STRUCTURE MAY 2010		STANDARDS STRUCTURE 2020
Domain 1: Course Management	Standard 1: Governance	Standard 1: Governance
	Standard 2: Teaching Staff	Standard 2: Curriculum conceptual framework
	Standard 3: Students	Standard 3: Program development and structure
	Standard 4: Course Length and Structure	Standard 4: Program content
Domain 2: Course	Standard 5: Course Content	Standard 5: Student assessment
	Standard 6: Approaches to Teaching and Learning	Standard 6: Students
	Standard 7: Student Assessment	Standard 7: Resources
	Standard 8: Professional Experience	Standard 8: Management of professional experience placement
	Standard 9: Research	Standard 9: Quality improvement and risk management

The Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards align with the key focus areas of the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards; that is, the re-entry program is underpinned by clearly defined curriculum requirements that prepare students to meet the Enrolled nurse standards for practice. Like the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards, the Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards ensure that professional experience placements (PEPs) are of high quality. This is demonstrated by the requirement for:

- constructive relationships and clear contractual arrangements with all health services where professional placement experience occurs
- appropriate clinical supervision and assessment arrangements
- opportunities for student intraprofessional and interprofessional learning for collaborative practice
- students provided with appropriate, quality PEPs reflecting the major health priorities and broad landscape of enrolled nurse practice which facilitate students meeting the Enrolled nurse standards for practice.

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

In developing an accreditation standard for a health profession, *the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* requires accreditation authorities to undertake wide-ranging consultation on the content of accreditation standards.

An Education Reference Group (ERG) was convened to oversee and provide advice to ANMAC's Chief Executive Officer. The ERG provided advice on standard development, stakeholder engagement and synthesis of feedback.

The Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards were consulted on in one round as opposed to the three rounds stipulated in *ANMAC's Protocol for the review of nursing and midwifery accreditation standards*. This was due to their similarity to the Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2017.

During the consultation, stakeholders were asked to review the standards and provide written feedback. Six written submissions were received. Feedback received was criterion specific and related to the contemporary rewording of certain criteria. The feedback further ensured the standards aligned with similar re-entry to practice standards such as the Re-entry to the Register Midwife Accreditation Standards 2016.

### **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 Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020, 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 Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020 come into effect?**

The Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020 are effective from 7 April 2020. This is the date the accreditation standards were published by ANMAC after receiving approval from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia on 20 February 2020.

### **Are previous accreditation standards for re-entry enrolled nurse programs still valid?**

Previously, Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nursing programs were accredited against *the Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses: Re-entry to the Register Standards, Enrolled Nurses May 2010*. Those standards will continue to be used to monitor and assess changes to programs that were accredited against this version of the standards.

### **How do the Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020 affect education providers planning to run a re-entry Enrolled Nurse program in the future?**

From 7 April 2020, all education providers submitting a Re-entry Enrolled Nurse program to ANMAC for accreditation will need to address the Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020.

This means education providers will also need to be offering an Enrolled Nurse entry to practice program as per Standard criteria 1.2. Accreditation information on the requirements for submissions are contained in the application pack.

Please email [accreditation@anmac.org.au](mailto:accreditation@anmac.org.au) to discuss your planned application.

### **How do the Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020 affect students currently enrolled in a Re-entry Enrolled Nurse 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 Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020?**

Further information on the Re-entry to practice Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards 2020 is available on the [ANMAC website](#).

Education providers should direct all questions to the [accreditation@anmac.org.au](mailto:accreditation@anmac.org.au) or phone 02 6274 9166.

Accreditation Services

7 April 2020