

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 Registered 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 Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 replace the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2012.

What are the main changes to the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019?

The Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 have moved to a five-standard format. The structure of the revised accreditation standards is described in Table 1. An extensive mapping exercise was undertaken to ensure content from the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2012 was included in Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019. An Essential Evidence companion document has been prepared with the accreditation standards, to assist with the move to the five-standard format.

Table 1: Comparison of 2012 and 2019 standard structure

STANDARD NUMBER	2017 STANDARDS STRUCTURE	2019 STANDARDS STRUCTURE
Standard 1	Governance	Safety of the public
Standard 2	Curriculum conceptual framework	Governance
Standard 3	Program development and structure	Program of Study
Standard 4	Program content	Student experience
Standard 5	Student assessment	Student assessment
Standard 6	Students	
Standard 7	Resources	
Standard 8	Management of workplace experience	
Standard 9	Quality improvement and risk management	

Several qualitative changes have been integrated across the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019. Key changes include, education providers being required to demonstrate:

- 1.3 The program's admission requirements are fair, equitable and transparent. Before making an offer for enrolment, education providers inform applicants of the requirements to:
 - b. demonstrate English language proficiency either by providing a written declaration that English is their primary language or evidence that they have achieved the minimum English language test results
- 1.5 Students are registered with the NMBA before starting their first Professional Experience Placement (PEP)
- 1.7 Program progression policies and rules ensure that only students who have demonstrated the requisite knowledge and skills required for safe practice are eligible for PEP
- 2.4 All program entry pathways for which students receive block credit or advanced standing (other than on an individual basis) are identified, approved by ANMAC and allow graduates to meet the NMBA Registered nurse standards for practice.

Key changes to terminology used in the standard include the adoption of Professional Experience Placement (PEP) instead of clinical placement

What is the Essential Evidence companion document?

In collaboration with stakeholders, ANMAC has developed an Essential Evidence companion document to support the standards. The companion document is given to education providers with the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019. It provides information to education providers about the minimum evidence they need to submit to demonstrate that their program of study meets these standards. Education providers applying for program accreditation are required to provide all essential evidence in conjunction with their Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 Application Pack.

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.

The review of the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 was guided by a Professional Reference Group (PRG) selected for expertise in consumer advocacy; registered 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 PRG 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 three periods of public consultation. Additionally, stakeholders were invited to attend the consultation forum held in Melbourne.

Stakeholder feedback from these consultation processes enabled ANMAC to capture perspectives from consumers, clinicians, education providers in both the higher education sector, the Industry sector, the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives, 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 and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia among others. Details of consultation papers and public submissions are available on the ANMAC website.

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 Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019, 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 Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 come into effect?

The Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 are effective from 28 November 2019. This is the date the accreditation standards were published by ANMAC after receiving approval from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia on 31 October 2019.

Are previous accreditation standards for registered nurse programs still valid?

Previously, Bachelor or Master of Nursing programs were accredited against the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2012. 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 Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 affect education providers with a currently accredited program?

In line with ANMAC's [Transition policy for new Accreditation Standards](#), ANMAC has determined there are two areas of change that will require education providers to transition to the new accreditation standards.

Education providers will be provided with information regarding the transition requirements, evidence required and due dates.

All future applications for the accreditation of Bachelor or Master of Nursing programs will need to address the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019.

How do the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 affect education providers planning to run a Bachelor or Master of Nursing program in the future?

From 28 November 2019, all education providers submitting a Bachelor or Master of Nursing program to ANMAC for accreditation will need to address the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019. Information on the requirements for submissions are contained in the application pack.

Please email accreditation@anmac.org.au to discuss your planned application.

How do the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 affect students currently enrolled in a Bachelor or Master 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 Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019?

Further information on the Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 is available on the [ANMAC website](#).

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

Accreditation Services

28 November 2019