

Accreditation standards review

Written submission form

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Research Study	<p>Australian midwifery student's perceptions of the benefits and challenges associated with completing a portfolio of evidence for initial registration: Paper based and electronic portfolios</p> <p>Available online: Reference: YNEPR2597 Journal title: Nurse Education in Practice</p> <p>DOI: 10.1016/j.nepr.2019.07.00</p>
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Standards Review
4 September 2017

3. Please indicate your agreement/disagreement with the following statement: The Midwife Accreditation Standards should continue to specify that students complete a minimum number of supervised midwifery practice experiences.

In 2018 we conducted a research study to investigate midwifery students experiences of completing a portfolio of evidence to validate completion of the ANMAC Standard 8.11 requirements. Our research compared students at two universities using different portfolio types, one electronic and one paper based. While there were pros and cons to each type of portfolio the findings that concern this review are as follows;

Midwifery students felt the current 2014 requirements were achievable.

Each university used a different portfolio which meant that the space students had to write their clinical experience details differed between the portfolio types. In the paper based portfolio predefined boxes limited the information the student could record. In comparison, the electronic portfolio with its free text boxes enabled students to write reflective entries for all their experiences. This disparity is wide spread across Australia, meaning that there is no agreed format on the level of detail students are required to submit to evidence their achievement of the standard 8.11 requirements. We urge ANMAC to provide some guidance and maybe examples of the level of details /reflection necessary to ensure consistency across the country.

4. How can the Midwife Accreditation Standards ensure that students in pre-registration programs are educated to meet the full scope of midwifery practice?

Midwifery students in our study identified that they felt that the ANMAC requirements did not encompass everything that they do within the scope of the midwife. Managing diagnostic investigations was an example that was used by students. Also, the importance of documentation and their ability to manage IT systems within their placements was something they felt was not captured or recorded anywhere. As academics we acknowledge that the ability to work collaboratively and maintain good communication through documentation are skills are assessed in the clinical assessment tools (AMSAT), but we wanted to share the students views of their demonstration of the ANMAC standards.

5. How can the Midwife Accreditation Standards best support inter-professional learning?

Students identified they have had difficulties in gaining signatures from ultrasonographers who don't understand their program. Furthermore, some students questioned the value of attending appointments with women who are seeking obstetric led care as some students felt they did not get an opportunity to apply their own knowledge or practice skills.

There needs to be more work on IPL?

6. What additional issues should be addressed in the revision of the Midwife Accreditation Standards that have not been considered in this consultation paper?

Based on other research being conducted by the authors separate to this research and anecdotal evidence we have found issues of inconsistencies in the quality of preceptorship/mentorship to midwifery students. We feel mentors in practice should demonstrate post graduate education and be able to engage in discussions with students about the application of evidence-based practice to women and infant care.

Reports of supportive and unsupportive mentorship was reported in this study. Thus, a nationally recognised mentorship program would be beneficial to students, academics and the midwifery mentors themselves as the good midwifery mentors would receive recognition of the quality support they provide students while they are out on placement. The need for post graduate education in mentorship would benefit students.