



3 November 2014

Ms Donna Mowbray  
A/g Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council  
(ANMAC)  
GPO Box 400  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

By email: [standardsreview@anmac.org.au](mailto:standardsreview@anmac.org.au)

Dear Ms Mowbray

### **Consultation Paper 2: Review of Nurse Practitioner Accreditation Standards**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the second public consultation phase on the development of revised Nurse Practitioner accreditation standards.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) has contributed to the review process thus far by participating in stakeholder forums and responding to consultation paper number one, on behalf of our Nurse Practitioner members. We are committed to accreditation standards which imbue rigour in both theoretical and practical components of the Nurse Practitioner education programs, to prepare safe, competent clinical leaders.

Having now perused the *ANMAC Consultation Paper 2: Review of Nurse Practitioner Accreditation Standards*, we provide further comment to assist in refining the draft standards.

As a general comment, we support the amendments made to the draft standards following the first round of consultation, plus the additions and changes to the glossary, as presented in Consultation paper 2.

### **Specific response to the questions posed in Consultation paper 2.**

#### ***Program convenor***

**Question 3: Which of the following options do you consider most appropriate for inclusion into the Nurse Practitioner Accreditation Standards at the present time?**

**The education provider demonstrates:**

**Option 1: An endorsed nurse practitioner is the program convenor or co-convenor of the nurse practitioner program of study.**

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#### **ANMF Journals**

**Australian Nursing and  
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**Option 2: An endorsed nurse practitioner is an academic staff member who teaches into the nurse practitioner program of study.**

**NB: In Option 2 the academic staff member, as part of their role, would be expected to contribute to curriculum design and development, supervision and mentorship models, as well as quality improvement and risk management processes.**

ANMF response:

The ANMF does not necessarily support either option outlined above. Our primary concern is that an experienced Nurse Practitioner (NP) be involved in the program in some way. This may be as the program convenor, program co-convenor or as an academic member of staff. However they are involved, it must be in a part time capacity so that they are able to maintain an NP position for retention of clinical expertise and relevance. It is essential too that the education provider be able to demonstrate that an NP(s) contributes to the curriculum design and development of the program, and supervision and mentorship models, as well as teaching into the program.

While having an endorsed NP as the program convenor may appear the ideal arrangement for maintaining clinical relevance of the program, the ANMF is aware of potential limitations for example:

- the endorsed NP may not have curriculum design and education qualifications and experience;
- the endorsed NP may not have had the opportunity to gain experience as an NP;
- taking on the position of convenor may mean the endorsed NP has to forego their clinical role thus compromising future return to their chosen field of clinical practice;
- while most NPs would appreciate the opportunity to contribute to curriculum and teaching into the program, they would see their primary interest as a clinical expert not as an academic.

### ***Graduate entry***

**Question 4: Does the following criterion sufficiently prepare students for undertaking patient centred care, ensuring development of knowledge and skills in primary health care principles that are complementary to the students' specialty skills and knowledge?**

**The program provider demonstrates:**

**Criterion 8.4 Each student is provided with a range of health care experiences that supports knowledge and skills development in patient centred care that is consistent with the principles of primary health care and complements the student's specialty skills and knowledge.**

- a) **Yes**
- b) **No**

**If you answered 'no' please provide your reason.**

ANMF response:

Yes.

However, we do have an amendment so that Criterion 8.4 reads:

Criterion 8.4 Each student is provided with a range of health care experiences that supports knowledge and skills development in **person-centred** care that is consistent with the principles of primary health care and complements the student's specialty skills and knowledge.

The wording of this Criterion is more flexible than that in version 1 of the standard as the student may not necessarily need to move out of their clinical area of practice to gain the required “range of health care experiences”. It had been our concern that students, who are experienced registered nurses already working at an advanced practice level (and in a clinical area of their choice), would be required to work in a range of health and aged care settings, when they can develop and apply both generic and specialist knowledge and skills in any setting.

We support the inclusion in this criterion of primary health care principles, to give a broader grounding to the NPs clinical focus. We appreciate the need for all NPs, as clinical leaders, to have

*...developed a deep understanding of the ‘convergence between the values of primary health care, the expectations of citizens and the common health performance challenges that cut across all contexts’.*

(as quoted on p.13 of Consultation paper 2)

The ANMF welcomes amendments made to the draft accreditation standards in version 2 which have led to an improved document. Our overriding concern is that the standards enable education programs that are accessible, viable and achievable for students, education providers and health and aged care service providers.

Should you require further information on this matter please contact Julianne Bryce, Senior Federal Professional Officer, ANMF Federal Office Melbourne, on 03 96028500 or [julianne@anmf.org.au](mailto:julianne@anmf.org.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Thomas', written in a cursive style.

**Lee Thomas**  
Federal Secretary