



21 February 2014

Ms Amanda Adrian
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council
standardsreview@anmac.org.au

Dear Ms Adrian

RE: Accreditation Standards required for Eligible Midwife Programs – Consultation Paper 1

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) appreciates the opportunity to provide advice to the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) for *Consultation Paper 1: Accreditation Standards required for Eligible Midwife Programs*.

With a membership of over 19,000 registered midwives, the ANMF through our State and Territory Branches, represents a significant proportion of practicing registered midwives in Australia.

The ANMF is aware that the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) is currently conducting a review of *the Eligible Midwife Registration Standard*. We are concerned that should the NMBA Registration Standard requirements change with this review, this will in turn impact the development of the ANMAC *Accreditation Standards required for Eligible Midwife Programs*. Accordingly, we advise you of the issues pertinent to the review of the Eligible Midwife Registration Standard, which we will be raising with NMBA.

These include:

- the term Midwife Practitioner, as defined in the National Law, has no applicable NMBA Registration Standard so is not accessible as a registration category for midwives; and
- the existing Registration Standard does not allow for experienced specialist midwives to access eligibility and subsequently the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) for the provision of services such as lactation consulting or postnatal home care. The requirement for Eligible Midwives to work across the full continuum of midwifery care creates disadvantage for the above mentioned midwives and the women for whom they provide midwifery services.

The ANMF looks forward to continuing to work closely with ANMAC to ensure that the *Accreditation Standards for Eligible Midwife Programs* will provide a framework for education providers which will be consistent with the NMBA *Eligible Midwife Registration Standard* requirements.

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ANMF Journals

**Australian Nursing and
Midwifery Journal**

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**Australian Journal of
Advanced Nursing**

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ABN 41 816 898 298

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lee Thomas
Federal Secretary