



**Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa  
Nursing Council of New Zealand**

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**Submission of Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa, the  
Nursing Council of New Zealand**

to the

**Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and AHPRA**

on the

**Draft Registration Standard: General registration for  
internationally qualified registered nurses**

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## **Introduction**

1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Nursing and Midwifery Board and AHPRA's proposed Draft Registration Standard: General registration for internationally qualified registered nurses.
2. Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa Nursing Council of New Zealand (The Council) is the regulatory authority responsible for the registration of nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand. Under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the HPCA Act), our primary function is to protect the health and safety of members of the public by ensuring that nurses are competent and fit to practise.
3. We note that this proposal applies to international Qualified Nurses and Midwives. As our functions do not cover midwifery, which is regulated by a separate entity in Aotearoa New Zealand, it is not appropriate for us to make any comments with regards to midwifery in this submission.

## **Overall position**

### **We strongly support the position taken by the Nursing and Midwifery Board and AHPRA.**

4. The proposed changes will help enable New Zealand and Australia further to align their processes in relation to internationally qualified nurses. We strongly support this proposal as it will further strengthen this alignment.
5. The proposed changes appear clear and easy to understand and implement.
6. New Zealand and Australia have long held a strong and close relationship in the nursing sector. The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act ensures that nurses in each country who can demonstrate evidence of a valid nursing registration are able to register in the other to practise.

### **We support the requirement for 1800 hours of practice.**

7. We believe that the proposal for a requirement of 1800 hours of practice by an NMBA-approved comparable international regulatory authority is a sensible and appropriate provision and will ensure that internationally qualified nurses are suitably qualified with recent nursing experience from an approved international jurisdiction.

### **We support the proposed timeframe.**

8. We support the proposed timeframe of 1 January 2017. We believe that this is appropriate and aligns with the best practice of the INRC.

## **Conclusion**

We wish to thank the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and AHPRA for the opportunity to submit as part of this consultation process. If you have any questions regarding the issues raised in this submission, please contact us.

### **Catherine Byrne**

Pouārahi – Pouroki/ Chief Executive – Registrar  
Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa Nursing Council of New Zealand