



Nurse Education in the Tertiary Sector

Nurse Education in the Tertiary Sector (NETS)

Submission in response to

Nursing Council of New Zealand Consultation on Guidelines for Professional Boundaries

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Nurse Education in the Tertiary Sector (NETS) Response

Guidelines for Professional Boundaries

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on these important guidelines. Overall we think the guideline is comprehensive, factual, easy to read and to the point. Our comments generally relate to areas where we believe that the guideline could be strengthened, and are outlined below.

1. In the introduction to the guidelines It would be useful to include brief information about the HPCA Act and the Council's responsibilities, such as that stated in other guideline documents – eg in the recent cultural safety guidelines:

“Under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Nursing Council of New Zealand (‘the Council’) governs the practice of nurses by setting and monitoring standards and competencies for registration, which ensures safe and competent care for the public of New Zealand”.

2. A possible inclusion at the outset of the section on page 3 **Professional Boundaries** may be to remind nurses of the Council's definition of practising, which states that a nurse:

“is using nursing knowledge in a direct relationship with clients or working in nursing management, nursing administration, nursing education, nursing research, nursing professional advice or nursing policy development roles, which impact on public safety”¹.

3. The Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN) has a statement in its Professional Boundaries Guidelines published in September 2005 which may also be useful to include or adapt to support the Council's definition of practising. It states

“Professional boundary issues also arise for registered nurses outside of therapeutic relationships with clients. There are registered nurses in teaching relationships with students, working with research participants, managing staff, and in working relationships with co-workers or in other roles. These relationships are not therapeutic ones, but they also require trust. Registered nurses in any role can ensure that professional boundaries are respected by applying the following guidelines to their nursing practice as appropriate for their role”².

4. While we note that the Council intends to publish on its website the ANMC and Nursing Council of New Zealand's A Nurse's Guide to Professional Relationships when the guideline is finally published, we wonder if it is possible to include it in the final guideline as an appendix, rather than nurses accessing it as a separate document.

Lastly, we congratulate the Council on the careful and sensitive wording within this document. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

¹ Nursing Council of New Zealand (2010). *Definition of Practising*. Wellington, New Zealand: Nursing Council of New Zealand; 2010.

² Alberta Association of Registered Nurses September 2005. www.nurses.ab.ca

