



Nursing Education in the Tertiary Sector

Submission in response to

**Consultation on the qualifications prescribed by
the Nursing Council of New Zealand for the
Registered Nurse Scope of Practice under the
Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act
2003**

September 2014

Contact person: Dr Kathy Holloway, National Chair

Kathryn.Holloway@whitireia.ac.nz

About NETS

Nursing Education in the Tertiary Sector (Aotearoa New Zealand) (NETS) aims to provide a proactive voice on national issues in nursing education and nursing workforce development in Aotearoa New Zealand. NETS members are heads of nursing from nursing education providers and organisations with an identified role in nursing education. Our goals are to provide a national focus for groups seeking informed comment on nursing education and nursing related issues. We honour the Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi commitments and the bi-cultural partnership. We aim to work in partnership with, practice colleagues, other health professionals, government agencies, national nursing organisations and regulatory bodies. NETS also promotes, participates in and commissions research related to nursing education.

Overview of our submission

NETS appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposal and acknowledges the importance of this consultation with stakeholder groups.

Overall, our submission does not support changes to the prescribed qualification for the registered nurse scope of practice at this time.

NETS supports an undergraduate degree as the appropriate education programme to prepare individuals for entry to the registered nurse scope of practice. A number of factors have informed this position, and these are outlined below.

1. Historically, when nursing education programmes have changed, the nursing profession and the regulatory authority, as well as nursing education providers have been challenged to justify such change. Some of these challenges are:
 - The transition of nursing education from hospital based programmes to the tertiary sector.
 - The introduction of undergraduate degrees.
 - The introduction of postgraduate nursing programmes, in particular clinical master's degrees with nurse practitioner pathways.
 - The various changes to enrolled nurses (programmes and titles).
2. Most (if not all) of these challenges remain troublesome for nursing as a profession and confusing for the public. While this may continue into the future, it is worth considering that yet another change to nursing education programmes may add to the existing challenges.
3. The outcomes for master's degrees are at a significantly different level from undergraduate degrees and assume a building on from appropriate professional experience (NZQA 2014). It is difficult to see how clinical requirements for a preparation for entry to practice programme could be at master's level.
4. Irrespective of a title such as Master of Nursing (Entry to practice) a Master's degree is generally regarded as building onto an undergraduate degree, and still implies the whole degree is an advanced level, including advanced practice.
5. Since the clinical component of a preregistration programme is at undergraduate level, this cannot be credited to a master's degree.
6. Finally, we cannot see any benefit to the consumer for this.

This submission was completed by:

Name: Dr Kathy Holloway

Email: Kathryn.Holloway@whitireia.ac

Organisation: Nursing Education in the Tertiary Sector (NETS)

Position: National Chair of NETS

I/we do not wish the submission to be made publicly available

You are making this submission:

- as an individual
- on behalf of a group or organisation
- other (please specify)

Please indicate which part of the sector your submission represents:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer group | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary health organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Māori health provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific health provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Government agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education provider | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Professional organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private hospital provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Aged care provider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> District Health Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internationally qualified nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Consultation Questions

Change to the prescribed qualifications for the registered nurse scope of practice

1. Do you support a preregistration master's degree in nursing becoming an additional prescribed qualification for entry to the registered nurse scope of practice?

Yes

No

Comments:

Our reasons for not supporting this is outlined earlier. Essentially we believe that such a change to preparation for entry to practice requires policy analysis work to be undertaken address issues that would likely arise to the introduction and acceptance of such an option.

Other options could be explored without changing the qualifications, such as a combination of a Bachelor of Nursing for the clinical content and the theoretical component at Level 8.

Programme Title

2. Do you support the requirement for a preregistration master's degree in nursing to have a standardised title e.g. Master of Nursing (Entry to Practice)?

Yes

No

Comments:

We do not support a preregistration master's degree in nursing at this time. As noted earlier this standardised title may be confusing and has the potential to be shortened to MN only.

Credit and level

3. Do you support the preregistration master's degree in nursing being 240 credits at level 8 on the NZQA framework?

Yes

No

N/A

Comments:

We cannot support this at this point as it implies that the whole degree would be at level 8, and we have noted that the clinical component at level 8 would make this advanced practice. The NZQA requirement for Master's Degrees is that they must comprise a minimum of 40 credits at level 9 (NZQA 2013)

Programme completion time

4. Do you support the preregistration master's degree in nursing programme being equivalent to two years full time study and students having five years to complete the programme?

Yes

No

Comments:

We do not support a preregistration master's degree in nursing at this time.

Clinical experience hours

5. Do you support the requirement for the preregistration master's degree in nursing programme to meet the same clinical experience hours (offered 1500 hours, minimum required 1100 hours) as required in bachelor's degree in nursing programmes?

Yes

No

Comments:

This question cannot be answered as a yes as it is hypothetical at this point.

RPL – Year one of the programme

6. Do you support the requirement for Council approval of RPL for clinical experience papers in year one of the preregistration master's degree in nursing programme?

Yes

No

Comments:

Cannot see how RPL can be given for clinical experience papers without clinical experience.

RPL – Year two of the programme

7. Do you support the requirement that no RPL be granted for clinical experience papers in year two of the preregistration master's degree in nursing programme?

Yes

No

Comments:

Cannot see how RPL can be given for clinical experience papers without clinical experience.

Entry criteria

8. Do you support the Council requiring additional entry criteria for a preregistration master's degree in nursing? e.g. specifying the requirement for an undergraduate degree in a health, health science or science related area.

Yes

No

Comments:

Cannot support this at this stage.
