

5 October 2023

Tēnā koe,

### **Nursing Council on track to deliver changes to competence assessment requirements**

Following on from our letter in September, I would like to advise you that we are on track to implement changes to our competence assessment requirements for internationally qualified nurses (IQNs).

The Council will implement these changes for IQNs from the **4<sup>th</sup> December 2023**.

Any internationally qualified nurse who applies to NCNZ from that date will need to successfully complete the following if they are required to undertake an assessment of competence:

- an **online theoretical exam** that tests nursing knowledge, taken at an accredited exam centre overseas or in New Zealand.

and

- a two-day orientation and preparation course followed by a clinical examination known as an **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)**. These will take place in person in New Zealand at an accredited centre.

We are currently contracting with providers for the management of the theoretical examination and orientation, preparation course, and OSCE. We look forward to sharing these providers with you once the contract negotiations are completed.

The Council values the work of Competence Assessment Programme (CAP) providers and acknowledges the pressure at the moment with unprecedented numbers of IQNs applying for CAP.



The Council has planned for an 18-month transition period (2024-midway 2025) where both the existing competence assessment programmes and the new competence examination process will be in place. The Council will continue to work closely with providers and employers over 2024 to ensure adequate provision of CAPS and transition between the two processes.

The Nursing Council is continuing to experience an unprecedented volume of applications from IQNs seeking registration in New Zealand; this is creating considerable pressure and delays to the management of applications.

We are encouraging IQNs who have confirmed employment in New Zealand to contact us directly by emailing [iqn@nursingcouncil.org.nz](mailto:iqn@nursingcouncil.org.nz).

You can find more information on the [Registration for International Nurses](#) website page. We will continue to provide updates on our website and please do not hesitate to contact myself ([catherine@nursingcouncil.org.nz](mailto:catherine@nursingcouncil.org.nz)) for further information.



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