

**From:** [Biju Akkamparambil](#)  
**To:** [HealthRegReview](#)  
**Subject:** We request an exemption from the English test for those who graduated with nursing degrees from Australian universities  
**Date:** Monday, 29 May 2023 7:45:14 PM

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To,  
Ms Robyn Kruk AO  
Independent review of health practitioner regulatory settings

Dear Ms Robyn Kruk AO,

We highly appreciate your hard work to fill the shortage of nurses in Australia.

We also take this opportunity to inform you that many overseas-born individuals living in Australia have completed their nursing degrees and qualifications from Australian institutions. However, they are unable to gain their nursing registration due to the unfair English language proficiency testing systems imposed on them.

**We request an exemption from the English test for those who graduated with nursing degrees from Australian universities, and worked in the health field for a significant period** in a non-registered role, but completed their secondary school education in a non-English-speaking country to gain their Australian nursing registration.

One of the misconceptions is that this will entitle individuals to gain nursing jobs without English language skills. However, this needs to be corrected, as we ask for those who have studied in this country and worked here for a long time in non-registered healthcare roles such as assistant in nursing.

As a part of their University study in Australia, these individuals have already shown that they can communicate well with the patients, doctors and allied health team. They also have undergone vigorous clinical and community assessments before gaining their respective nursing degrees.

As these Australian students have already successfully demonstrated that they can provide safe care for patients to Australian universities, requesting them to prove their language ability again is an unnecessary and expensive step that significantly increases the student's financial burden. By testing candidates' English skills rather than nursing skills, the intention of these examinations, which cost almost 500 dollars per sitting, is a sham that permits English testing companies to generate money constantly.

Changing these unnecessary requirements will inherently increase the number of Australian-trained nurses graduating from Australian Universities and, intern reduces the burden of constant shortages of trained Nurses in Australian healthcare institutions.

In 2010 WA nursing council took action to address these issues. The British nursing council has recently successfully reviewed and implemented its language testing systems.

If you and your department take similar action and review its language testing policies, it will encourage many young adults to take nursing as their profession, and we could soon become self-sufficient. This will also open up many opportunities for those already working in the health sector in non-registered roles to pursue their nursing studies without the fear of sitting repeated language examinations.

Please consider our request and take steps to exclude the English language requirements for qualified nurses who have completed their education in Australia and have worked in the health industry for several years in non-registered roles.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Biju Akkamparambil

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