

Enrolled Nurse Scope of Practice Information Sheet 3

Educational Preparation

1. The current educational preparation for enrolled nurses aims to prepare them to work in a range of settings with a uniform scope of practice, particularly in the areas of delegation, supervision and medicine administration.
2. The educational preparation for entry to practice of enrolled nurses has been provided through a number of pathways such as Certificate IV and the Diploma of Nursing. The education is offered through the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector which includes Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and private Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

Current Enrolled Nurse Education

3. The recognition of a need to develop a national framework for the education of enrolled nurses in relation to course structure, duration and content has led to the development of national qualifications and competency standards for enrolled nurses within the National Health Training package HLT07. The new National Health Training Package HLT07, including HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing) was endorsed by the National Quality Council on 25 January 2007 with the Ministerial delegates agreeing to this endorsement on 12 February 2007.

National Approved Education Programs

4. Currently the Certificate IV and Diploma in Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing) have been endorsed as the two nationally-recognised Enrolled Nursing qualifications by the National Quality Council. Whilst the Certificate IV is currently offered in the state of Victoria and New South Wales, the Nurses Board of South Australia (**nbsa**) has endorsed the HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing) as the minimum qualification that will lead to enrolment as a nurse in South Australia. The HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing) is currently offered by nine **nbsa** approved education providers. Enrolled nurses with Certificate IV qualification can upgrade to a Diploma level by completing a post enrolment Diploma of Nursing which includes arrangements for recognition of prior learning.

HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 Nursing)

5. The HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing) has been mapped against the *Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) National Competency Standards for the Enrolled Nurse 2002*. The HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing)

comprises 26 units of competency, 21 of which are compulsory and 5 elective.

6. The level of underpinning knowledge in the HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing) is more extensive than the Certificate IV in the following areas:
 - Health assessment framework
 - Reflective practice – use of evidence including policies and procedures
 - Primary health care focus
 - Indigenous health
 - Discharge planning
 - Medications
 - Clinical skills
7. The Nurses Board of South Australia (**nbsa**) has endorsed the extension of accreditation period of the 39037QLD Diploma of Nursing (Pre-enrolment) until 31 December 2008, as a transition arrangement for continuing students in this program.
8. The HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing) provides national consistency in enrolled nurse education in relation to course structure, duration and content. This level of qualification will improve the education preparation and provide an expanded scope of practice for enrolled nurses. In addition to the HLT51607 Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled/Division 2 nursing), there are a number of career and professional development options to further enrolled nurses' education such as nursing specialisation, Advanced Diploma, and Bachelor of Nursing at university level.

Case Scenario

9. I am an enrolled nurse with a Certificate IV in Nursing and have worked for 12 years in a private health service. I have recently accepted a new job with a rural community service provider which requires me to make home visits and administer medicines. I have not administered medicines in the private sector. What education preparation do I need to consider in order to work in the rural community health setting?
10. For further information regarding the nine education providers or Re-entry pathway to enrolment refer to **nbsa** website: www.nursesboard.sa.gov.au and follow the education link to Education Programs. www.nursesboard.sa.gov.au/education.html

Other useful links:

Health Training Package: http://www.cshisc.com.au/load_page.asp

Government's policies, programs, publications related to health and aging: www.health.gov.au

Nursing and midwifery courses, scholarships: <http://www.nurseinfo.com.au/>