

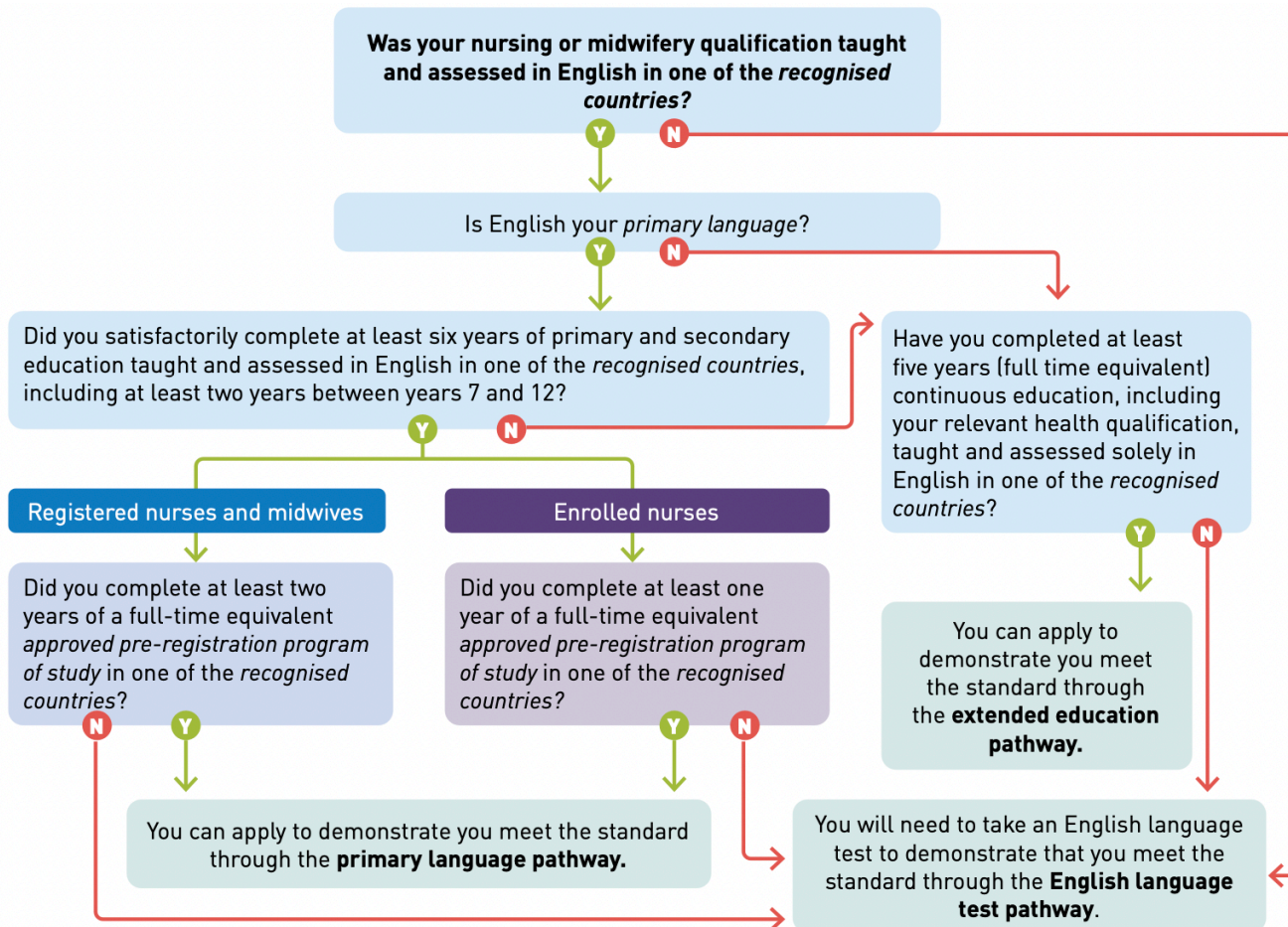
# English competency for internationally qualified nurses

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- Internationally qualified nurse or midwife (IQNM) who are interested in working in Australia
- Meeting the registration requirements:
  - Criminal History
  - English Language Skills
  - Recency of Practice
  - Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements
- **Registration standards** define the requirements that applicants must meet to be considered fit to practise as nurses and midwives
- **Qualification criteria** define the minimum acceptable education and training that IQNMs must have completed.



# English Language Skills



*Primary language* means the language you primarily use and the language that you know best and are most comfortable with.

*Recognised countries* means the following countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, UK and USA. With the exception of South Africa, these countries are recognised by the Department of Home Affairs for the purposes of exempting applicants from having to sit a test to demonstrate English language skills. More information about recognised countries and the English language skills registration standard can be found on the Board's *Registration Standards* page

*Approved pre-registration program of study* means a program of study approved by the recognised nursing and/or midwifery regulatory body in a recognised country.

# Approved English language test providers

- International English Language Testing System - (IELTS)
- **Occupational English test - OET (both nurses and midwives are able to sit the nursing OET)**
- Test of English as a foreign language internet-based test - TOEFL iBT
- Pearson test of English academic - PTE Academic

# Occupational English test - OET

- assesses the English language proficiency of **overseas-trained healthcare professionals** seeking to **register and practise** in an **English-speaking environment**
- designed in the late 1980s by Professor Tim McNamara, under the guidance of the Australian National Office for Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR)
- has been developed specifically to reflect workplace tasks for 12 healthcare professions:
  - **Dentistry, Dietetics, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Radiography, Speech Pathology and Veterinary Science**
- recognised by regulatory healthcare boards and councils in countries around the world:
  - Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Dubai and Singapore

# Assessment structure

- Covers all four language skills (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking), with an emphasis on communication in a healthcare environment.



## Listening

Participate in a range of listening assessments based on patient consultations and lectures.



## Reading

Read and understand different types of texts based on a variety of healthcare professions and subjects.



## Writing

Take part in a writing task specific to your profession such as a document of referral, advice or a letter of transfer or discharge.



## Speaking

Engage in a role-play based speaking assessment specific to your profession with the interlocutor playing as your...

# Listening



- Approximately 40 minutes long
- Three parts and a total of 42 question items
- Part A – consultation extracts: **identify specific information during a consultation**
  - Listen to two recorded health professional-patient consultations and complete the health professional’s notes using the information that was heard.
- Part B – short workplace extracts: **identify the detail, gist, opinion or purpose of extracts from workplace**
  - Listen to six recorded extracts (e.g. team briefings, handovers, or health professional-patient dialogues) and answer one multiple-choice question for each extract
- Part C – presentation extracts: **follow a presentation or interview on a range of accessible healthcare topics**
  - Listen to two different extracts and answer six multiple-choice questions for each extract

# Reading



- Consists of three parts and a total of 42 question items
- All three parts take a total of 60 minutes to complete
- Part A - expeditious reading task: **locate specific information from four short texts in a quick and efficient manner**
  - The four short texts relate to a single healthcare topic, and must answer 20 questions in the allocated time period
  - matching, sentence completion and short answer questions
- Part B and Part C - careful reading tasks:
  - Part B: **ability to identify the detail, gist or main point of six short texts sourced from workplace**
    - The texts might consist of extracts from policy documents, hospital guidelines, manuals or internal communications, such as emails or memos.
    - one three-option multiple-choice question for each text.
  - Part C: **ability to identify detailed meaning and opinion in two texts on topics of interest to healthcare professionals**
    - Answer eight four-option multiple choice questions.



# Writing



- 45 minutes long and is **profession-specific**
- One task set for each profession **based on a typical workplace situation** and the **demands of the profession**
- The task is to write a letter:
  - usually a referral letter
  - Alternative letter types:
    - letter of transfer and a letter of discharge.
    - A letter to advise or inform a patient, carer or group is sometimes used in Pharmacy, Veterinary Science and occasionally for Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy.
    - Written response to a complaint (for Radiography).
- Stimulus material will be given (case notes and/or other related documentation)
- two trained Assessors marking the letter against six criteria (purpose, content, conciseness & clarity, genre & style, organisation & layout and language)

# Speaking



- delivered individually and takes around 20 minutes
- Using materials specifically designed for examinee's profession
- Short warm-up conversation about professional background
- three minutes to prepare and each role play takes about 5 minutes
- Role-plays:
  - Examinee takes the professional role
  - Assessor plays a patient, a client, or a patient's relative or carer
- minimum of two trained OET Assessors - apply specific assessment criteria:
  - **Linguistic Criteria:** intelligibility, fluency, appropriateness of language, resources of grammar and expression
  - **Clinical Communication Criteria:** relationship-building, understanding and incorporating the patient's perspective, providing structure, information-gathering and information-giving.