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Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa | Nursing Council of New Zealand  
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Tēnā koe

### **Feedback on proposed changes to nursing education standards**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the proposed changes to the Enrolled Nurse (EN) and Registered Nurse (RN) education standards. I wish to acknowledge the organisations, groups, and individuals who have worked collaboratively with the Nursing Council of New Zealand (the Council) to develop the proposals. Thank you for your shared commitment to ensuring our nursing workforce is prepared to deliver services that are effective and safe for all New Zealanders.

As you know the Council's Strategic Plan 2022-24 commits to a review of the current Cultural Safety guidelines. I am pleased to see that the work to ensure they are fit-for-purpose, current, and encompass Kawa Whakaruruhau has started. I am also conscious that this work should inform the proposed changes to the education standards, and should also inform the new competencies for ENs and RNs. The products of this work may assist stakeholders to provide a more fully informed view on the current consultation, as well as the planned consultation regarding the competencies.

Regarding the current consultation, I am aware that the Council has on its website the assessment tool for programmes leading to registration in the EN and RN scopes of practice. The Council may want to continue working with its Māori partners and other key stakeholders to develop examples of criteria that would meet each of the new proposed standards. The Council may wish to publish this as guidance for the sector, alongside publishing the assessment tools.

I am also aware that the Council currently has published on its website *Guidelines for Cultural Safety, the Treaty of Waitangi and Māori Health in Nursing Education and Practice*, and guidelines related to direction and delegation. The Council may want to communicate with the health and education sectors regarding what the proposed changes will mean for these guidelines.

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Finally, I note that the Council has acknowledged the complexity and strategic context of the education and health sectors. The Council may wish to consider the current and future [Government Policy Statement on Health](#), [Pae Ora strategies](#) (in addition to the Pae Ora Act 2022), and the Ministry of Health's [Health Workforce Strategic Framework](#). These set the direction for Te Pae Tata and the workforce plans described in the consultation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback, and for your ongoing commitment to ensuring the delivery of nursing services that are effective and safe in Aotearoa New Zealand. We look forward to reviewing the consultation feedback and outcome and continuing to work collaboratively with the Council.

Nāku noa, nā



Lorraine Hetaraka  
**Tapuhi Rangatira | Chief Nursing Officer**  
Ngā Āpiha Hauora | Manatū Hauora