



21 December 2010

Robyn Hewlett  
Chairperson  
61 Stephen Street  
Halfway Bush  
Dunedin 9010

Dear Robyn

Carolyn has asked me to respond to your letter of 25 November on her behalf.

Thank you for your letter and the ongoing support of the National Enrolled Nurses Section for the transition of enrolled nurses into the new scope of practice.

The Council will be maintaining the transition period of 13 months as it believes this is an appropriate period of time to allow the change in scope to come into effect and to then identify, through a condition included in their scope of practice, those enrolled nurses who continue to practise in a restricted scope of practice.

We will be communicating with the health sector shortly to clarify that although the Council set a timeframe of thirteen months for the transition period before any condition would be included in an enrolled nurse's scope of practice, this does not mean that those nurses are precluded from completing the transition into the new scope of practice any time after this period.

From 1 July 2011 enrolled nurses (excluding New Zealand educated nurses previously titled nurse assistant) who do not complete the transition will have the condition "may only work with health consumers with stable and predictable health outcomes" included in their scope of practice. This is the limitation included in the previous enrolled nurse scope of practice that is not included in the new scope of practice. This condition should not make any difference to their present employment but may restrict them from taking on additional responsibilities that are within the new scope of practice.

For continuing competence purposes the enrolled nurse with this condition will need to be assessed against the competencies for nurses in the enrolled nurse scope of practice but will not be expected to meet the seven new competencies (2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2 and 4.3).

This condition can be removed at any time subject to a satisfactory competence assessment against all eighteen competencies, including the new competencies, for enrolled nurses.

I hope that this responds to the concerns expressed in your letter.

Kind regards

Pam Doole  
Professional Standards Manager