

Mr Peter Baxter  
First Assistant Secretary  
North Asia Division  
Japan FTA Task Force  
John McEwen Crescent  
Barton ACT 0221

Dear Mr Baxter

**Australia – Japan free trade agreement (FTA)**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 2006. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the potential of a free trade agreement between Australia and Japan.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) was established in 1992 as the peak body to develop a national approach to regulation of nurses and midwives. The ANMC is gazetted by the Minister of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs as the relevant assessing authority for nurses and midwives who wish to migrate to Australia using the skilled migration program.

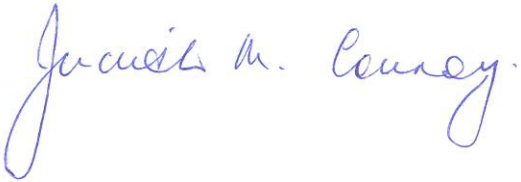
Nurses and midwives are assessed using the ANMC standards and criteria consistent with the registration and/or enrolment requirements of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs). The ANMC assesses overseas trained nurses against these standards ensuring that each applicant can demonstrate competency.

In applying for a skills assessment to the ANMC applicants must include transcripts of initial nursing / midwifery education, professional reference from a current employer, verification from their current registering authority that the person has no negative actions or conditions placed upon their registration and finally, evidence of English language proficiency.

ANMC is opposed to any government movement as part of a free trade agreement which may impact negatively on the integrity of the regulatory process. Regulation is about the protection of the public; as such Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Authorities maintain the need to assess the ability to practice of nurses and midwives who have not been educated in Australia against the same standards expected of Australian nurses and midwives. When internationally educated nurses and midwives

do not meet these standards they must complete a competency program approved by the State/Territory Nursing/ Midwifery Regulatory Authority. In this way the Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Authorities ensure the continued provision of standards of nursing and midwifery care which protect the public.

Yours sincerely



Judith Conroy  
International Manager  
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council  
Email: [Jconroy@anmc.org.au](mailto:Jconroy@anmc.org.au)  
Ph:02 6274 9101

U:\International\FTA JAPAN\L PBaxter 211206.doc