

Specialist Nurse Credentialing Program
Mental Health Nursing
Addendum to
C4N Qualification Framework

Pathway 1: Holds a Specialty Nursing Qualification

The applicant must demonstrate that they have completed a specialty nursing qualification at the minimum level of a Graduate Diploma (as per the Australian Qualification Framework www.aqf.edu.au) worth 100 points from **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Pathway 1

	Category of Education	Notes:
Australian Qualification Framework Level	Specialty Nursing Qualification	
Graduate Diploma or higher degree	100 points	<p>The program must be a clearly defined mental health nursing / psychiatric nursing course. The options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Master Degree • Post Graduate Diploma <p>The Graduate Diploma or Masters in Mental Health Nursing (however titled), must include content on mental health nursing theory and practice, which is clearly evident in no less than 75% of the program of study.</p>

Pathway 2: Holds a combination of qualifications and education related to the speciality

The applicant must demonstrate they have attained 100 points from **Table 2**. On this pathway, applicants may combine points from postgraduate qualifications and other education attained in various Categories of Education. Definitions of each Category of Education can be found in the Definitions section.

Table 2: Pathway 2

Australian Qualification Framework Level	Category of Education			Notes:
	I: Specialty Nursing Qualification	II: Other Nursing Qualification	III: Other Qualification relating to the speciality	
Graduate Diploma or higher degree	<i>N/A: Refer to Pathway 1</i>			
Graduate Certificate	50 points	n/a	50 points	<p><u>Category of Education I – Speciality Nursing Qualification</u></p> <p>The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing* (however titled), must include content on mental health nursing theory and practice, which is clearly evident in no less than 75% of the program of study.</p> <p>The Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing* (however titled) must be inclusive of mental health nursing curricula, and not just nursing and /or mental health curricula. The Graduate Certificate level is about preparing a nurse for mental health nursing practice at the novice level. The course outline and subjects must clearly state that at least 75% is in the area of mental health nursing.</p>

			<p><u>Category of Education III – Other Qualification relating to the specialty</u></p> <p>The corresponding Graduate Certificate must be titled to reflect a complementary mental health practice and / or speciality, such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Nursing. The corresponding Graduate Certificate curricula must include clear evidence of mental health theory and practice in no less than 75% of the program of study.</p> <p>Cognate Graduate Certificates are courses that cover subject matter closely related to, or which provide additional insight into, the theory or application of mental health nursing. Courses that could be considered cognate to mental health nursing would be such courses as Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery, and psychological therapy courses. It must be clear from the course outline and subjects that at least 75% covers the cognate area.</p>
Education course nominated by the specialty college.	N/A		

Pathway 3: Nurses who

(3A) undertook a specialist post basic hospital course recognised by the speciality organisation / college OR

(3b) were registered as specialist nurses by previous Australian nursing registration authorities.

The applicant must demonstrate that they have completed from **Table 3** either:

- 3A.** A post-basic hospital certificate recognised by the specialty college/ organisation OR
- 3B.** A post-basic hospital certificate or specialist pre-registration course that led to registration, or specialist registration where that existed.

Table 3: Pathway 3

Registration as a specialist nurse	Points	Notes:
3A Post Basic Hospital Course recognised by the specialty organisation /college	100 points	A hospital post-registration course (min 12 months FTE) completed prior to 2004 that led to qualifications as a specialist mental health nurse / psychiatric nurse by the relevant nurse registering authority in Australia at the time of completion. <i>(Completion of a Transition to Mental Health Nursing Program does not meet the requirement for credentialing because Transition programs did not lead to qualification as a specialist mental health nurse/psychiatric nurse by the relevant nursing registering authority.)</i>
3B Completed a Hospital Certificate in the specialty area of nursing; or specialist pre-registration course; or specialist registration.	100 points	A 3 year hospital based course that led to registration as a mental health nurse. **In Australia this would be a 3 year hospital based course completed before 1994
3B Completed a pre-registration Specialist Nursing Bachelors degree or diploma; or specialist pre-registration course; or specialist registration.	100 points	An undergraduate diploma or degree leading to direct entry into mental health nursing / psychiatric nursing. **In Australia this would be either a direct entry undergraduate degree completed before 1988 or a direct entry undergraduate diploma completed before 1984.