

How do I apply?

First, you should read the Application Guidelines – they outline all the documentation you need and will assist you with completing the application process.

The application process isn't difficult, but you do need to be organised and have all the required information to hand. Once your application is received, it is checked to ensure it is complete then it is sent for peer review.

Applications can be submitted at any time (via the online site at www.c4n.com.au) and are processed continuously throughout the year.



Is membership required?

All applications will be assessed by the relevant professional nursing college for the specialty. Applicants need to be eligible for membership to that College, but they do not need to be a member of that college to become Credentialed.

More information

For guidelines and other resources needed to apply, go to www.c4n.com.au

Submit your application
now at www.c4n.org



Queensland Government

The Department of Health, Queensland, through the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, provided funding to the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses to establish the C4N initiative.

Credentialing for Specialist Nurses



Find out more at www.c4n.com.au

What is credentialing?

Credentialing is a core component of clinical/ professional governance or self-regulation, where members of a profession set standards for practice and establish a minimum requirement for entry, continuing professional development, endorsement and recognition.

The credentialing process provides formal recognition of your specialist knowledge, skills and experience. It enhances professional credibility and indicates a level of clinical competence to colleagues and the community – helping to promote the provision of quality health care within a given specialty area of nursing practice.

How does it do that?

A national credentialing framework has been established by a consortium of professional nursing Colleges. The framework sets a standardised benchmark for the recognition of specialised practice in nursing – no matter what the specialty. All nurses who apply for credentialing are assessed against this framework, which has been customised to each nursing specialty by the relevant professional college.

What is a specialist credentialed nurse?

A specialist credentialed nurse is a registered nurse who has demonstrated that they hold specialist qualifications, that

they undertake ongoing professional development related to the specialty, and that they have a specified amount of experience working in the specialty.

Why become credentialed?

Credentialing demonstrates to employers, professional colleagues, patients/consumers and their family/carers that an individual nurse has achieved the professional standard for practice in specialty nursing. It also increases awareness of the contribution nurses make to the health of the community. Credentialing is an important means of ensuring standards of practice and competence within the specialist domain are maintained beyond entry to practice.

With health reforms demanding greater accountability of health professionals, Credentialing of specialist nurses in Australia has become increasingly recognised as a means to meet the evolving health environment.



How do I become credentialed?

If you are a registered nurse practising within a number a specialty fields in Australia (see the C4N website for details of which specialties are involved), you may apply to become Credentialed. If your application is approved, you will be awarded a Credential that is valid for 3 years. The award means you are formally recognised by your specialist nursing organisation as a Credentialed Nurse.

To gain a Credential, you must demonstrate that you:

- hold a current licence to practice as a registered nurse within Australia
- hold a recognised specialist nursing qualifications (as specified in the guidelines for applications, available on the C4N website at www.c4n.com.au)
- have had at least 12 months experience since completing specialist qualifications, or have 3 years' experience as a registered nurse working in your specialty area
- meet recency of practice criteria
- have acquired minimum continuing professional development points for education and practice
- are supported by 2 professional referees, and
- have completed a professional declaration agreeing to uphold the standards of the profession.



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