FITNESS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE
POLICY

PREAMBLE

The School of Nursing & Midwifery, Flinders University, has a responsibility to ensure that all students required to undertake a clinical placement, have the physical, emotional, and psychological capacity to perform their role as nursing and midwifery students in the clinical environment.

As such, the School undertakes to ensure that all nursing and midwifery students will be aware of and understand their obligation to report any physical, psychological or psychiatric condition that might impede their ‘fitness to practice’. As with all student matters within the School, confidentiality is assured and no disclosure of information will be made outside that necessary for the administration of the student’s progress in the course.

POLICY

Students enrolled in the undergraduate or postgraduate topics that require them to undertake a clinical placement must meet the following requirements:

- Students with a physical, psychological or psychiatric condition must make a self-declaration stating what accommodations are needed for them to practice safely in a clinical venue

- Where there is a pre-existing illness or disability such that their ability to practice is impaired, the student will advise the topic coordinator so that where possible, a modified placement that will still meet the objectives of the topic can be arranged in consultation with the topic coordinator, course coordinator, clinical venue and the student.

- The topic coordinator will notify the clinical venue of the strategies to be put in place to facilitate
  - the student’s progress through the placement and
  - the safety of the public.
APPLICATION OF POLICY GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been designed so that the School of Nursing & Midwifery has a strategy in place to ensure that students have the physical and mental capacity for clinical practice before commencing clinical components of their program. The School requires that:

• students must advise the topic coordinator of any physical, psychological or psychiatric condition that could affect their satisfactory progress during clinical placement.

• topic coordinators must advise students to provide them with a completed fitness for practice form, signed by a medical practitioner, declaring their capacity for practice and/or their limitations with regard to clinical practice (see Fitness for Clinical Practice Form).

• Topic coordinators must forward a copy of the completed fitness for practice form to the Clinical Placement Administrator and the course coordinator.

• students are advised of this policy on the School of Nursing & Midwifery website.

The Fitness for Clinical Practice Policy will be revised annually by School Board.

March 2008