

## **Royal College of Nursing, Australia's (RCNA) innovative quality assurance programme for nursing education**

**Mrs Debra Cerasa**

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Royal College of Nursing, Australia's (RCNA) mission is to benefit the health of the Australian community through research, promotion and recognition of professional excellence in nursing. As part of its commitment to support nurses in developing their knowledge and skills, RCNA has an endorsement service for professional development activities.

The purpose of endorsement is to enable nurses attending events which have been endorsed by RCNA, to be confident that the event has met the high standards set by RCNA. It is an objective evaluation, which may also assist consumers, nurses and their employers in education selection.

Activities which have been endorsed are allocated RCNA Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) points which go towards the points required annually as part of the RCNA's Life Long Learning Program (3LP).

Due to the high demand for educational activities to be endorsed by RCNA a new model of endorsement was implemented called Authorised Provider of Endorsed Courses (APEC). The programme has been a tremendous success with nurses now actively seeking RCNA endorsement from their organisations and educational providers.

This presentation will define endorsement, explain the RCNA APEC model of endorsement and clarify the four endorsement standards and how they are applied to endorsed activities. It will also explain the professional responsibilities of an RCNA APEC organisation.