This scheme has been developed by the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia and the Australian Veterinary Association (working together through the National Industry Advisory Group for Veterinary Nursing) in response to the need for recognition of an individual nurse’s competence, currency and dedication to the veterinary nursing profession.
The Accredited Veterinary Nurse has her or his name entered onto a register held by the VNCA / AVA and is entitled to wear an individually numbered AVN badge. The badge is recognised by colleagues, employers and the public as a symbol of excellence. Maintenance of accreditation status is required through evidence of continuing professional development.

**Criteria for Initial Application**

Applicants are required to present evidence of the following:

1. A declaration from the employer stating that the applicant is currently working at Certificate IV Level and that at least 12 months have passed since graduating Certificate IV Veterinary Nurse.
2. Veterinary Nurses with a qualification prior to the Certificate IV, who have completed an upgrade or have undergone the Recognition of Prior Learning process to obtain a Certificate IV, will have the 12 month waiting period waived provided they have been working at Certificate IV level for the past 12 months. A copy of the original and new certificates must be provided.
3. Membership of the Veterinary Nurses’ Council of Australia Inc.
5. Continuing professional development in the previous 12 month period accumulating no less than 30 points, to be allocated as follows.

**Criteria for Reaccreditation Application**

Applicants are required to present evidence of the following:

1. A declaration from the employer stating that the applicant has worked at Certificate IV level for the majority of the 3 year period.
2. Continued membership of the Veterinary Nurses’ Council of Australia Inc throughout the accreditation period.
3. Continuing professional development in the previous 3 year period accumulating no less than 90 points. Points must be gained in each year of the 3 year period.
4. CPD points must be achieved from more than one type of professional development. Maximum of 60 points from continuing education across the 3 year period, which may include up to 5 RACE points per year.
5. Additional points will not be carried over as the purpose of the scheme is to demonstrate competency and currency.
6. If choosing to submit evidence from both presentation categories no more than 60 points may be claimed across the 3 year period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour of continuing education</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma Veterinary Nurse (ECC, Surgical, Dental, General Practice)</td>
<td>20 points (available for reaccreditation only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A case report using the guidelines supplied</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A technical article using the guidelines supplied</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A documented textbook review using the guidelines supplied</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A short article of 1 page</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivering a presentation at a seminar/conference</td>
<td>15 points (15 points per individual topic for 1 delivery per topic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivering a presentation to work colleagues</td>
<td>10 points (10 points per individual topic for 1 delivery per topic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answering CE questions in the AVNJ</td>
<td>1 point (max. 6 points in any 1 year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNCA Committee representation</td>
<td>2 points per committee representation (max. 4 points in any 1 year)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Definitions:

**CONTINUING EDUCATION** is deemed to be attendance or involvement at an appropriate presentation, seminar, conference where the applicant has added to his/her professional knowledge base and/or skills. Each Continuing Education event must have the NIAG approved Accredited Veterinary Nurse CPD points allocated. A maximum of 5 RACE points per year will be accepted for reaccreditation to allow nurses to undertake international CPD.

**CASE REPORT** refers to the accurate observation and recording of a patient who has been nursed by the applicant during the course of a treatment or procedure. The report must be completed using the “AVNJ Case Report Guidelines” available on the VNCA website. The report should include patient details, history, presentation, attending vet’s assessment, treatment, medication details, progress and outcome. Special detail is required about the nursing aspects of the case and what has been learned by the applicant during the process.
TECHNICAL ARTICLE refers to a formal report that conveys technical information in a clear and accessible format. A technical article describes procedures of a specific interest, latest knowledge, recent progress or developments in a particular area and may offer new perspectives on an issue or approach to the area or identify where further research is needed in that area. Other Veterinary Nurses might benefit from learning about the latest or different method of practice or a description of a specific case. It should be written in correct technical language.

BOOK REVIEW should be made of an appropriate text that has added to the knowledge base of the applicant. The review should include a summary and critique. The review must be completed using the AVNJ How to write a book review for a clinical textbook. This can be found on the VNCA website. Minimum 600 words.

SHORT ARTICLE refers to a one page article of a quality able to be printed in the AVNJ outlining hints, tips, techniques or procedures that you may use or have seen that would be of benefit to other Veterinary Nurses in their workplace. For example, an article on handy hints/techniques for keeping intravenous catheters in place in difficult patients.

SEMINAR PRESENTATION AT A CONFERENCE OR SEMINAR refers to the applicant speaking for more than half an hour on appropriate veterinary nursing matters to a group of peers such that the seminar attendees are deemed to have added to his/her continuing education points. The presentation must be at a formal seminar or conference. Please supply the following details: documented or recorded detail of the presentation showing an outline of the presentation delivered, venue date and length of the presentation, audience delivered to and evidence to show that the applicant did indeed make the presentation.

SEMINAR PRESENTATION TO WORK COLLEAGUES: refers to the applicant speaking for more than half an hour on appropriate veterinary nursing matters to a group of peers within the workplace, where the peers are deemed to have added to his/her professional development. Please supply the following details: documented or recorded detail of the presentation showing an outline of the presentation, date and length of presentation, workplace delivered, audience delivered to and confirmation letter from the employer that the presentation did occur.

QUESTIONS IN THE AVNJ relate to the technical articles found in each edition. Applicants should attach a VNCA letter of verification.

VNCA COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION is deemed to be participation on a VNCA committee for a minimum period of 12 months, with attendance of at least 80% of meetings held. VNCA Committees are VNCA National Executive, VNCA Divisional, NIAG, State IAC for Veterinary Nursing. A confirmation letter from the committee chairperson is required to be submitted.

Maintenance of Accreditation
To reaccredit, candidates must accumulate a total of 90 points over 3 years using the criteria and points as outlined above and submit an AVN Re-accreditation Form and AVN Re-accreditation Evidence Form. Points for completion of the Diploma Veterinary Nurse [ECC, Surgical, Dental, General Practice] is only available for Reaccrediting AVN. 20 points are allocated and Certificate IV VN must be obtained prior to starting the Diploma qualification. Membership of the VNCA must be maintained throughout the accreditation period. Veterinary nurses applying for reaccreditation must have gained points across all three years, though this does not have to be spread evenly. Candidates must have been working at Certificate IV level for the majority of the three year period.