Registered Nurses' understanding of their responsibilities under the ANMC competency standards in relationship to Bachelor of Nursing Students.

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Each year when a Registered Nurse renews their license to practice they complete a self assessment form and sign a legal document declaring their competence to practise. When a Registered Nurse signs this declaration they are asserting their competence under the Australian and Nursing Midwifery Council (ANMC) competency standards. Included within this declaration of personal practice competence, is the expectation they will support students by teaching them and assisting them to meet their required learning objectives (competence standard 4.3).

Given the requirements under standard 4.3 if a Registered Nurse fails to provide support to students, it could be argued that they have not met their annual license requirements. This research examines the critical role that Registered Nurses play in supporting student's professional development in the clinical setting. A grounded theory approach is being used to undertake an in-depth analysis of Registered Nurses' understandings of their responsibilities to nursing students as part of their annual license to practice, within the framework of the ANMC competency standards.

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