



## IBLCE Role Delineation study – Next Steps

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### **This article provides an update to the recommendations and comments from the IBLCE Role Delineation study conducted in 2007.**

The purpose of the IBLCE Role Delineation study was to examine the practices and skills used by currently certified IBCLCs and the positions (employment and volunteer) in which these skills are practiced. This report is available on the IBLCE website at <http://www.iblce.edu.au/Downloadcentre.php>.

#### ***The recommendation that arose from this study was:***

That the blueprint increases its focus on the education and teaching skills required of IBCLCs given the amount of time they spend teaching mothers, the community and health professionals about breastfeeding.

*At the March 2008 IBLCE Board meeting, it was decided that the Exam Blueprint would increase its focus on education and teaching by increasing the range of questions in Discipline G (which includes education and teaching) from 10-16 to 14 –20 while at the same time decrease the range of questions in discipline K (Breastfeeding equipment and technology) from 10-16 to 6-12 given that the Role Delineation study identified that there is less emphasis on technology compared to other areas. This change will be incorporated into the 2009 IBLCE exam.*

#### ***Comments regarding the IBCLC credential:***

- ✓ Many respondents were strongly against the need to repeat an entry level exam at 10 years to remain certified. They would prefer to do this by collecting CERPs as happens in many other professions. *An article outlining the value of recertifying by exam was published in the 2008 IBCLICK available on all IBLCE Regional websites. Retaking the exam encourages people to update their knowledge and skills in all areas of the blueprint rather than specific topics of interest. This ensures they are 'well rounded' IBCLC's.*
- ✓ Some respondents suggested that the credential needed more promotion so it gained more recognition and respect. *This has been incorporated in the IBLCE marketing and promotion strategy and is being implemented through the Regional Directors in consultation with the International Office.*
- ✓ Several respondents expressed concern over the lack of practical experience required before sitting the exam. *This has been a concern for some time and is being considered by IBLCE keeping in mind the uniqueness of this international credential.*
- ✓ There was concern over the second credential – that it would confuse the public. *A very active IBLCE committee is working on this credential including distinguishing its uniqueness in relation to the established credential.*
- ✓ Concern was expressed over the high cost of maintaining certification. *There are many ways to maintain certification, some that are less expensive than others. IBCLCs are encouraged to explore these options which are explained in detail on each IBLCE regional website.*
- ✓ Most respondents were very proud to be IBCLC. *The IBLCE staff and Board are very encouraged by this and invite all IBCLCs to promote the credential in their workplace and in their community.*
- ✓ Some respondents wanted more recognition from fellow colleagues and employers. *The IBLCE Board is aware that recognition is something that is earned and encourages all IBCLCs to adhere to the recently developed IBLCE Scope of Practice and Code of Ethics available on each of the IBLCE regional websites.*