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Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Graduate registration: Pre-apply now!

28 October 2010

Making registration smoother, sooner

Introduction

A National Registration and Accreditation Scheme came into effect in Australia on 1 July, underpinned by nationally consistent legislation.

Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*, (the National Law) as adopted by each state and territory, there are additional requirements that practitioners must meet before they are registered. This includes criminal history checks and identity verification. Some of these processes involve external agencies and can take time.

At the end of 2010, there will be up to 30,000 graduates nationally, all seeking registration before joining the workforce. AHPRA is introducing a streamlined process for new graduates from accredited and approved courses of Australian education providers.

We are asking students to pre-apply for registration in the four to six weeks before the end of their course, so AHPRA can begin the registration process, pending confirmation from education providers of successful graduation.

What is pre-application?

AHPRA is asking all students about to graduate from their course to pre-apply for registration as health practitioners. This means that students provide information upfront, so AHPRA can start the registration process early to avoid delays at the end of the year.

Why pre-apply?

Pre-application will help graduates avoid delays during peak application periods. AHPRA will be registering up to 30,000 students at the end of 2010 and is putting in place systems to make this as streamlined as possible.

Who can pre-apply?

All students from approved health practitioner courses, with the exception of psychology courses, can use the pre-application process. The pre-application process is not available to students seeking registration as psychologists. This is because provisional registrants undertaking the 4 + 2 program have to provide detailed evidence of supervision or if undertaking the alternative higher degree program, they must provide evidence of enrolment in that program. Psychology students need to apply for provisional registration after they have graduated, when they also provide additional detailed evidence required by the Board.

What do I have to do?

There are two groups of students. There are different application requirements for each group.

Group A: Those who have never practised or been registered in a health profession in Australia or overseas

Group B: Those who have been registered in a health profession in Australia or overseas

Group A: Next steps

If you have never practised or been registered in a health profession, you need to:

- Step 1: Complete the application form in the 'forms' section of your Board's website (accessible via www.ahpra.gov.au) or follow the link in *Table A: Group A - I have never practised or been registered in a health profession* at the end of this document
- Step 2: Make sure you include all the required documentation and make all the relevant declarations.
- Step 3: If you have been issued with your academic qualification by your education provider, include a certified copy of this with your application. If you have not yet been issued with your qualification, submit your application without this and AHPRA will be advised by your education provider through a certified list after you have completed your course.
- Step 4: Make sure you provide AHPRA with your personal email address in your application so we can contact you if needed. Note, do not use your student e-mail address.
- Step 5: Check you have completed all the required paperwork and are providing all the required information.
- Step 6: Post this to AHPRA at GPO Box 9958 in the capital city of the state or territory in which you have completed your course. You do NOT apply in the state or territory in which you plan to practise. When you are registered, you will be eligible to practise anywhere in Australia within the terms of your registration. If you are graduating as a medical practitioner, you will be registered to work only in the approved intern position you have been granted and you will not be permitted to undertake any clinical work outside this position. Similarly, if you are graduating as a pharmacist or psychologist, you will be registered to work only in the approved supervised practice position.

Group B: Next steps

If you have practised or been registered in a health profession in Australia or overseas, you need to:

- Step 1: Complete the application form in the 'forms' section of your Board's website (accessible via www.ahpra.gov.au) or follow the link in *Table B: Group B - I have practised or been registered in a health profession in Australia or overseas* at the end of this document.
- Step 2: Make sure you include all the required documentation and make all the relevant declarations.



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- Step 3: If you have been issued with your academic qualification by your education provider, include a certified copy of this with your application. If you have not yet been issued with your qualification, submit your application without this and AHPRA will be advised by your education provider through a certified list after you have completed your course.
- Step 4: Make sure you provide AHPRA with your email address in your application so we can contact you if needed.
- Step 5: Check you have completed all the required paperwork and are providing all the required information.
- Step 6: Post your completed application to AHPRA at GPO Box 9958 in the capital city of the state or territory in which you have completed your course. You do NOT apply in the state or territory in which you plan to practise. When you are registered, you will be eligible to practise anywhere in Australia within the terms of your registration. If you are graduating as a medical practitioner, you will be registered to work only in the approved intern position you have been granted and you will not be permitted to undertake any clinical work outside this position. Similarly, if you are graduating as a pharmacist or psychologist, you will be registered to work only in the approved supervised practice position.

What are the Board's registration standards?

Under the National Law, the National Boards have set registration standards that aim to ensure that every registered health practitioner has the qualifications and skills to provide safe care to the Australian community. You should be familiar with the registration standards set by the National Board for your profession, published on each Board website, accessible via www.ahpra.gov.au, on:

- criminal history
- English language skills
- professional indemnity insurance
- recency of practice and
- continuing professional development.

What about English language skills?

The role of the Boards is to protect the public. Boards set requirements for English language skills to make sure all registered practitioners can provide safe care and communicate effectively in English with their patients/ clients and other health practitioners.

You must meet the registration standard for English language skills set by your Board. Detailed information is published on each Board website, accessible via www.ahpra.gov.au - look under *Registration Standards* for details.

If you are an overseas student, you may need to provide evidence that you meet the National Board's English language skills registration standard. Consider this matter carefully and if you are not sure, talk about this with your education provider or call AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

What will AHPRA do?

Before you complete your course, AHPRA will:

- begin the assessment and registration process so there are minimal delays between graduation and registration as a health practitioner
- send your criminal history declaration to an external agency for confirmation
- verify your identity and
- complete all the steps towards registration, pending confirmation of your successful graduation.

After you complete your course, AHPRA will:

- obtain a certified list from your education provider confirming the names of students who have successfully completed the course, and
- if your education provider confirms you have successfully completed your course, AHPRA will finalise your registration, send you an email confirming that you are registered, publish your name on the register of practitioners and, in due course, mail you a hard copy Certificate of Registration.

Do I need to provide my academic transcript to AHPRA?

No. If you have been issued with your graduation certificate, provide a certified copy with your application to AHPRA. If you have not been provided with your certificate, your education provider will give a certified list of students, who have graduated successfully, directly to AHPRA.

When will I be registered?

You will be registered when AHPRA has finalised your registration application and confirmed that you are eligible and meet all the Board's registration standards.

Medical graduates will be registered from 3 January 2011 as this will assist them to complete their supervised practice year without having to renew provisional registration.

If you are eligible you will be granted registration and your name will be published on the register of practitioners for your profession.

How will I know when I am registered?

When we have confirmed that you are eligible for registration, we will:

- publish your name on the Register of Practitioners for your profession, published at www.ahpra.gov.au
- email you confirmation that you have been registered
- mail you a certificate of registration in due course after we have processed your registration

What sort of registration will I be granted?

Medicine and Pharmacy: Provisional registration applies to Australian medical school graduates and to pharmacy school graduates. This enables registrants to complete their supervised practice year in approved positions.



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All other regulated health professions: You will be granted general registration.

Can I start work before I am registered?

No. You cannot work as a registered health practitioner until you are registered.

Can I work before I get a Certificate of Registration?

Yes. You can work as a registered health practitioner as soon as your name is published on the register of practitioners. Medical graduates will be able to commence work from 3 January 2011. You can print this out and use this as evidence of your registration status with potential employers.

Will I get a refund of my fees if I apply but fail to graduate?

Yes. AHPRA will refund both your registration and application fees if you pre-apply but do not successfully graduate.

Can I contact AHPRA to confirm I have graduated and my name is on the graduate list?

No. Only your education provider can confirm your academic results. AHPRA is not able to release results provided in confidence.

Can I pre-apply online?

No. You should apply in hard copy by mailing your application and the relevant additional information to AHPRA at GPO Box 9958 in the capital city of the state or territory in which you have completed your course. You do NOT need to attend the AHPRA office in your State or Territory. AHPRA is continuing to develop a robust and reliable online service for use in the future.

How do I know that my application has been received and is being processed?

If you provide your email address with your application, AHPRA will send an email confirming that it has received your application. You will know when you have been registered when your name is published on the Register of Practitioners for your profession. We will also send you an email to confirm this.

Which form do I use?

TABLE A: Group A - I have never practised or been registered in a health profession

Profession	Form ID	Name of Form	Internet Pathway
Chiropractic	ASGR-10	Application for general registration as a Chiropractor for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Dental	ASGR-20	Application for general registration as a Dental Practitioner for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Medical	ASPR-30	Application for provisional registration as a Medical Practitioner for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Nursing and Midwifery	ASGR-40	Application for general registration as a Registered Nurse, Enrolled Nurse or Midwife for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Optometry	ASGR-50	Application for general registration as an Optometrist for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.optometryboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx

Profession	Form ID	Name of Form	Internet Pathway
Osteopathy	ASGR-56	Application for general registration as an Osteopath for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Pharmacy	ASPR-60	Application for provisional registration as a Pharmacist for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Physiotherapy	ASGR-66	Application for general registration as a Physiotherapist for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Podiatry	ASGR-70	Application for general registration as a Podiatrist for students completing studies in Australia in 2010	http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Psychology	Not applicable	Not applicable	Pre-application for registration is not available for psychology students – see http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx for more information

Table B: Group B - I have been registered or practised in a health profession in Australia or overseas

Profession	Form ID	Name of Form	Internet Pathway
Chiropractic	AGEN-01	Application for general registration as a Chiropractor	http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Dental	AGEN-02	Application for general registration as a Dental Practitioner	http://www.dentalboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Medical	APRA-03	Application for provisional registration as a Medical Practitioner - Australian and New Zealand Medical School Graduates	http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Nursing and Midwifery	AGEN-04	Application for general registration as a Registered Nurse, Enrolled Nurse or Midwife	http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Optometry	AGEN-05	Application for general registration as an Optometrist	http://www.optometryboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Osteopathy	AGEN-06	Application for general registration as an Osteopath	http://www.osteopathyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Pharmacy	APRO-07	Application for provisional registration as a Pharmacist	http://www.pharmacyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Physiotherapy	AGEN-08	Application for general registration as a Physiotherapist	http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx



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Profession	Form ID	Name of Form	Internet Pathway
Podiatry	AGEN-09	Application for general registration as a Podiatrist	http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx
Psychology	Not applicable	Not applicable	Pre-application for registration is not available for psychology students – see http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Forms.aspx for more information