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Osteopathy Board of Australia meeting, 21 October 2009  
– Final decisions & actions arising (Issued 9 November 2009)

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IN CONFIDENTIAL



# **CONSULTATION PAPER ON REGISTRATION STANDARDS**

**Issued by the Osteopathy Board of Australia  
under the authority of Robert Fendall, Chair**

**27 October 2009**

If you wish to provide comments on this paper, please lodge a written submission in electronic form, marked "Registration standards" at [email address] by close of business on 24 November 2009.

Please note that your submission will be placed on the Board's website unless you indicate otherwise.

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## Introduction

### 1. Mandatory registration standards

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. English language skills
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. [REDACTED]

IN CONFIDENCE

## Introduction

### Background

#### *Legislative requirements*

This consultation paper has been developed to meet a requirement of the proposed Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009 (the proposed national law). The proposed national law will contain a legislative requirement for national boards to undertake wide-ranging consultation on proposed registration standards, codes and guidelines. A link to the proposed national law which has been introduced into the Queensland Parliament (the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009*) is available at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

Other matters needing Ministerial approval also require consultation to ensure that boards take into account stakeholder views and so Ministers know that consultation has occurred when they consider board proposals.

#### **Contents of the consultation paper**

This consultation paper covers proposals from the Osteopathy Board of Australia on the following issues:

1. Proposals for mandatory registration standards (required by all boards)



## 1. Mandatory registration standards (all boards)

The proposed national law provides for national boards to develop registration standards for approval by the Ministerial Council. Under the legislation, boards need to develop a registration standard on the following mandatory issues:

<i>Issues for mandatory standards</i>	<i>Common or individual board standard</i>
a. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
b. English language	Common standard for all boards
c. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
d. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
e. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Common standards across all boards are proposed for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] English language requirements.

The proposed national law will require a national board to undertake wide-ranging consultation on its proposed registration standards before they are submitted to Ministerial Council for approval.

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## **b. English language**

The following draft common registration standard on English language requirements is proposed to be used by all registration boards.

This registration standard is put forward under clause 38 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009*.

<b>Osteopathy Board of Australia</b>
<b>English language skills required for an applicant to be suitable for registration in the profession</b>
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>An internationally qualified applicant or an applicant who is an international student shall demonstrate having the necessary English language skills for registration purposes by achieving a minimum score of 7 [<i>or higher level specified by the board</i>] in the IELTS academic module, or specified alternatives.</p> <p>Test results will generally need to be obtained within 2 years but preferably within 12 months prior to applying for registration. The board may grant an exemption in specified circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Scope of application</b></p> <p>This standard applies to all internationally qualified applicants and applicants who are international students seeking registration in Australia under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.</p>
<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <p>An applicant who is an internationally qualified applicant or an international student must submit evidence, or arrange for evidence to be provided, to the relevant board of competency in English language skills as demonstrated by having completed the IELTS examination (academic module) to the following standard:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The applicant must have achieved a minimum score of 7 [<i>or a higher level if the board requires</i>] in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).</li><li>2. Alternative English proficiency tests that will be accepted are:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. completion and an overall pass in the OET with grades A or B only in each of the four components; or</li><li>b. other tests as approved by the board (to be specified in the standard).</li></ol></li><li>3. Results must have been obtained within 2 years prior to applying for registration.</li><li>4. An IELTS (or approved equivalent) Test Report Form more than two years old will be accepted as current if accompanied by proof that a candidate has actively maintained employment as a registered health practitioner using English as the primary language of practice in a country where English is the native or first Language. Test results must comply with the current requirements of this policy.</li></ol>

5. Results from any of the abovementioned English language examinations must be obtained in one sitting.
6. The applicant is responsible for the cost of English tests.
7. The applicant must make arrangements for test results to be provided directly to the board by the testing authority eg by secure internet login.

### **Exemptions**

The board may grant an exemption where:

1. the applicant provides:
  - (a) evidence of successful secondary education in English, and that the applicant's tertiary qualifications in the relevant professional discipline were taught and assessed in English, in one of the countries listed below, where English is the native or first language:
    1. Canada
    2. Republic of Ireland
    3. New Zealand
    4. United Kingdom
    5. United States of America
    6. South Africa
    7. Australia
2. an applicant applies for limited registration in special circumstances. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  - (a) perform a demonstration in clinical techniques; or
  - (b) undertake research which involves limited or no patient contact; or
  - (c) undertake postgraduate study or training while working in an appropriately supported environment which will ensure patient safety is not compromised.These special circumstances exemptions will generally be subject to conditions requiring use of a translator and/or supervision by a registered health practitioner.
3. the Board reserves the right at any time to require an applicant who has been granted an exemption to undertake a specified English language test.

### **Definitions**

In this standard, IELTS means the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) developed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, The British Council and IDP Education Australia. The test is administered at least once a month by IELTS Australia and The British Council at over 230 centres worldwide.

OET means Occupational English Test (OET) administered by the Centre for Adult Education

An internationally qualified applicant means a person who qualified as a health practitioner outside Australia

An international student is a person who completed their secondary education outside Australia in any country other than those specified in exemption 1.

**Review**

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard within three years of operation.

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