



Quick guide

Registration standard: General registration for experienced internationally qualified health practitioners

Who we are and what we do

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) works with the 15 National Boards to help protect the public by regulating Australia's registered health practitioners. Together, our primary role is to protect the public and set standards and policies that all registered health practitioners must meet.

Why we consult

Public consultations give us the chance to get feedback from practitioners, organisations and the public before we make changes to regulations. This helps us see any unintended results or possible problems with putting the changes in place.

What the consultation is about

Ahpra and the National Boards (Boards) are asking for feedback on the Draft registration standard: General registration for experienced internationally qualified health practitioners (draft registration standard). The draft registration standard has been prepared for the following professions:

- dentistry
- medical radiation practice
- occupational therapy
- podiatry

Why we have drafted a new registration standard

These four professions need more practitioners. One way we can encourage more experienced practitioners to register in Australia is by making the registration pathways for experienced internationally qualified health practitioners (IQHPs) faster and clearer.

What changes we are suggesting

The draft registration standard gives IQHPs a way to register based on their professional skills and experience. This makes the registration process faster and more flexible for IQHPs while maintaining the standards needed to practise in Australia. The changes include:

- three faster pathways for IQHPs
- assessments that consider IQHPs' professional experience
- more flexibility about when, where and how IQHPs meet the standards.

Who the changes apply to

The standard applies to practitioners who qualified in a country other than Australia and hold a qualification that is relevant to the profession.

How we will protect the public

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
National Boards
Box 9958 Melbourne VIC 3001 Ahpra.gov.au 1300 419 495

Ahpra and the National Boards regulate these registered health professions: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, chiropractic, dental, medical, medical radiation practice, midwifery, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathy, paramedicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology.

We assess all practitioners to make sure they meet the standards needed to practise safely in Australia. For the three faster pathways for IQHPs, we will check:

- What qualification(s) the applicant has
- Where the applicant received their qualification(s)
- Where the applicant has worked
- What exams or assessments the applicant has done
- How many hours the applicant has worked in the profession
- How long ago the applicant worked in the profession
- If the applicant has registered in the profession elsewhere.

In some cases, an applicant must also complete an assessment of their work experience to show they can practise safely.

How to give feedback

If you or your organisation wants to give detailed feedback via email:

1. Read the consultation paper (questions are on page 2)
2. Complete the feedback template (Attachment A)
3. Save your completed template as a Word document
4. Email your submission to streamlinedpathways@ahpra.gov.au by 5:00pm AEDT, 9 February 2026

If you want to give brief feedback via survey:

1. Read the consultation paper (the survey questions are based on the questions on page 2)
2. Complete the online consultation survey by 5:00pm AEDT, 9 February 2026

Ahpra and the relevant National Boards will choose whether to publish feedback on the Ahpra website. Please let us know if you do not want your feedback published.

For more information, contact streamlinedpathways@ahpra.gov.au

Consultation questions

1. Do you support the suggested approach in the draft registration standard? Why or why not?
2. Is the information in the draft registration standard clear and are the suggested pathways clear and practical? If no, what can we do to make this clearer and/or more practical?
3. Are the ways we will assess work-based experience in the comparable qualification and work-based experience pathway and the comparable work-based experience pathway suitable? Why or why not?
4. Are the hours of practice experience needed for the different pathways appropriate? Why or why not?
5. Do you support the National Boards' criteria for assessing comparable international regulator jurisdictions? Why or why not?
6. Would the draft registration standard have any possible negative or unintended impacts on public safety? If yes, please explain why.
7. Would the draft registration standard have any possible negative or unintended effects for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples? If yes, please explain why.
8. Are there any other possible regulatory impacts the National Boards need to consider? If yes, please give details.
9. Do you have any other feedback on the draft registration standard?