#### IN CONFIDENCE



## MEDCIAL BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number 9 23 June 2010 10 am to 4 pm

Hilton Melbourne Airport

1.	Welco	ome and general overview matters
	1.1	
2.	Trans	sition matters
	2.1	

3. Registration matters 3.11 Delegations for the ACT 4. Accreditation matters 7. Next meeting



## MEDICAL BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

23 June 2010 Meeting Number: 9

Agenda Item: 3.2

## **SPECIALIST REGISTRATION**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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- consider and agree on changes to the draft registration standard for specialist registration
- 3.4. agree to consult on the draft registration standard.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Section 13 of the National Law states that specialist recognition operates for the medical profession.

The Ministerial Council has approved a list of specialties for the profession and specialist titles for each specialty on that list and the Board has approved qualifications for each specialty. The qualifications are all fellowships of specialist colleges that have been accredited by the Australian Medical Council.

The Board will be invited to agree that examination and assessment of individuals with specialist qualifications that are not approved by the Board will be conducted by the relevant specialist colleges that have been accredited by the AMC.

#### Legislation

Section 57 of the National Law states:

## Eligibility for specialist registration

- (1) An individual is eligible for specialist registration in a recognised specialty in a health profession if—
  - (a) the individual is qualified for registration in the specialty; and
  - (b) the individual has successfully completed—
    - (i) any period of supervised practice in the specialty required by an approved registration standard for the health profession; or

(ii) any examination or assessment required by an approved registration standard for the health profession to assess the individual's ability to competently and safely practise the specialty; and

- (c) the individual is a suitable person to hold registration in the health profession; and
- (d) the individual is not disqualified under this Law or a law of a co-regulatory jurisdiction from applying for registration, or being registered, in the specialty; and
- (e) the individual meets any other requirements for registration stated in an approved registration standard for the specialty.

#### Section 58 of the National Law states:

#### Qualifications for specialist registration

An individual is qualified for specialist registration in a recognised specialty in a health profession if the individual —

- (a) holds an approved qualification for the specialty; or
- (b) holds another qualification the National Board established for the health profession considers to be substantially equivalent, or based on similar competencies, to an approved qualification for the
- specialty; or
- (c) holds a qualification, not referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), relevant to the specialty and has successfully completed an examination or other assessment required by the National Board for the purpose of registration in the specialty; or
- (d) the individual—
  - (i) holds a qualification, not referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), that under this Law or a corresponding prior Act qualified the individual for specialist registration (however described) in the specialty; and
  - (ii) was previously registered under this Law or the corresponding prior Act on the basis of holding that qualification for the specialty.

#### Section 59 of the National Law states:

#### Examination or assessment for specialist registration

For the purposes of section 57(1)(b)(ii), if the National Board requires an individual to undertake an examination or assessment, the examination or assessment must be conducted by an accreditation authority for the health profession, unless the Board decides otherwise.

#### **ISSUES**

Members are asked to consider whether they agree with the attached registration standard. In particular to focus on:

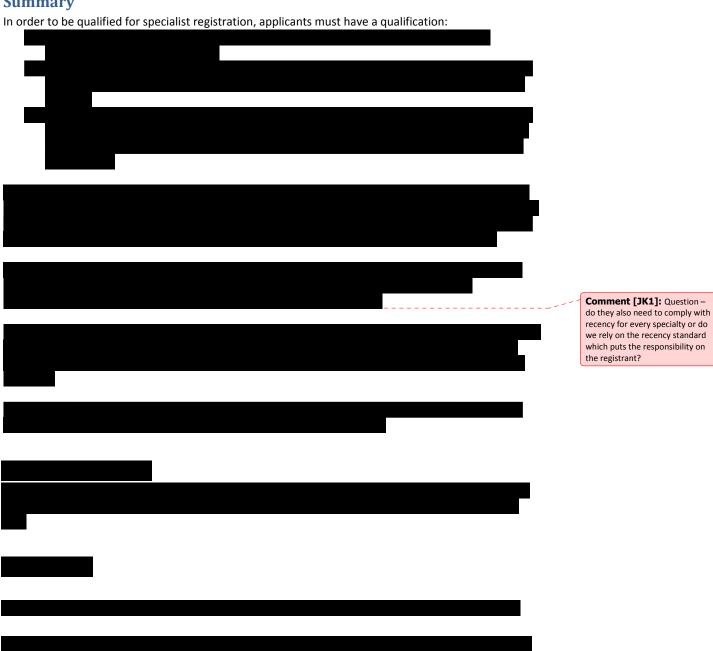
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## **ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment A:

Draft registration standard for specialist registration

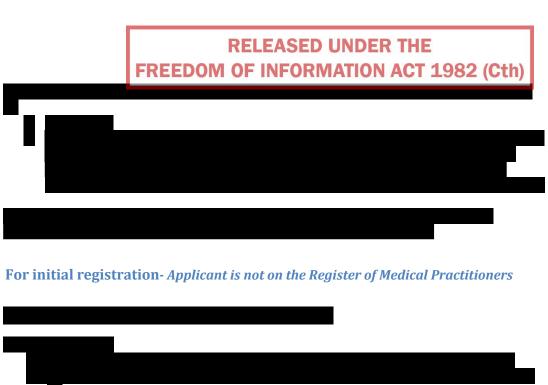
#### **Summary**



## Requirements

For initial registration- Applicant is on the Register of Medical Practitioners

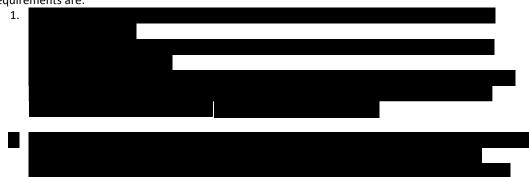
If the medical practitioner is currently registered, they are not required to produce documentation previously presented to the Board such as proof of identity, medical degrees and evidence that they have met the Board's English language registration standard.

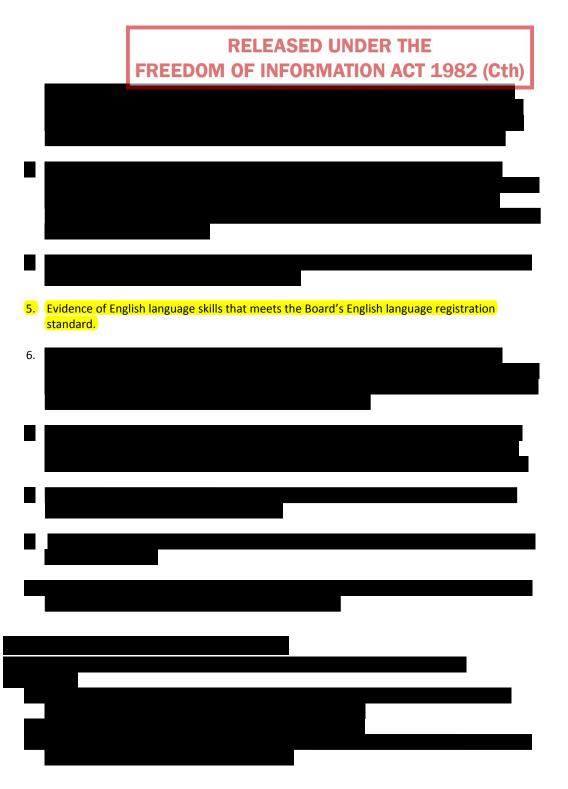




If the applicant is not eligible for general registration

Requirements are:





#### **Review**

This standard will commence as soon as it has been approved by the Ministerial Council. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

National Policy
Number

#### National Policy Register

NatPol-001-2005









A national English La nguage Proficiency re quirement for all Inter national Medical Graduates (IMGs) who require registration in Australia has been accepted by:



Medical Board of the Australian Capital Territory

New South Wales Medical Board

Medical Board of the Northern Territory

Medical Board of Queensland

Medical Board of South Australia

Medical Council of Tasmania

Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria

Medical Board of Western Australia



Each state and territory registration board is ch arged with the responsibility of ensuring that medicine is practised in accordance with their Act. This includes ensuring that only individuals who are competent, have a sound know ledge of the English Language, and are of good character, are re gistered as medical practitioners.



Many international medical gradu ates come from a non-English speaking background and the level of English competency varies greatly. Through national a greement, the state and territory registration boards have implemented an English Language Proficiency Policy that is consistent.



## 2.0 English Language Model

A high level of English language proficiency is essential to enable practitioners to communicate with p atients, other doctors and health professionals, and for maintenance of professional standards.



The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is an ap propriate language testing model for international medical graduates seeking registration.



The IELTS test was developed by the University of Cambridg e Local Examinations Syndicate, The British Council and IDP Education Australia. The test is administered at least once a month by I ELTS Australia and The British Council at over 230 centres worldwide.

National Policy Number NatPol-001-2005	National Policy Register				
	Applicants should con tact IELTS Australia o n all matters relating to the administration of the IELTS English test, examination dates and it is associated procedures. The IELTS English Test is held throughout Australia as well as overseas. The contact for IELTS Australia is:  Tel: + 612 6285 8222  Website: <a href="www.ielts.org">www.ielts.org</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:ielts@idp.edu.au">ielts@idp.edu.au</a>				
	3.0 Requirements  Applicants need to submit eviden ce to the relevant registration aut hority of competency in speaking and com municating in English, as demonstrated by having completed the TELTS examination (Aca demic module) to the following standard:				
	<ol> <li>The boards require the applicant to have achieved a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components.</li> <li>Alternative English proficiency tests that will be accepted are:         <ul> <li>Completed and obtaine d an overall pass in the Occupational English Test (OET) administered by the Centre for Adult Education with grades A or B only in each of the four components; or</li> <li>A pass in the Professional Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) in the United Kingdom; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>A pass in the New Ze aland Registration Examination (NZREX) in New Zealand.</li> </ol>				
	Results must have be en obtained within 2 years prior to applying f or registration.  4 An IELTS (or approved equivalent) Test Report Form more than two years old will be accepted as evidence of present level of ability if accompanied by proof that a candidate has actively maintained employment as a medical practition er in a country where English is the native or first Language. Test results must comply with the current requirements of this policy.  5 Results from any of the abovementioned English language examinations must be obtained in one sitting.  NOTE: The applicant is responsible for the cost of English tests.				

National Policy Number NatPol-001-2005	National Policy Register				
	The boards may grant exemption where the applicant secondary education in English in one of the countries, English is the native or first Language:  Canada Republic of Ireland New Zealand United Kingdom and Northern Ireland United States of America South Africa  At the board's discr etion, an exemption may be a pproved in special circumstances to app licants applying for registration. Examples would be, but are not limited to: perform a demonstration in medical techniques; or undertake research which involves limited or no patient contact; or undertake postgraduate study or training while working in an appropriately supported environment which will ensure patient safety is not compromised.				
	<ul><li>5.0 Implementation Date</li><li>This policy takes effect from 1 July 2005.</li><li>This policy was amended on 4 April 2007 and is effective from 1 July 2007.</li></ul>				