



## OSTEOPATHY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number 3  
19 November 2009

Hilton Melbourne Airport, Melbourne, Victoria

Final decisions and actions arising

### Members present

Mr Robert Fendall, Chair  
Dr Melissa Coulter  
Ms Amanda Heyes  
Dr Luke Rickards  
Dr Natalie Rutsche  
Ms Karen Stott  
Adjunct Professor Philip Tehan

### Apologies

Ms Helen Egan  
Ms Belinda Webster

### In attendance

Helen Townley, National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project (NRAIP)  
(notetaker)  
Carol Neumann, NRAIP (Agenda Item 5.1.1)

### 1. Welcome and general overview matters

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



1. noted the further feedback on the English language and [REDACTED] requirements standards, especially the feedback from national boards
2. noted that the draft common standards are proposed as a minimum to which boards can add any additional requirements
3. agreed to the new versions of the English language and [REDACTED] standards at Attachments A and [REDACTED] as the basis for the final versions of the standards to be considered by boards in December, and
4. noted that a further paper with additional information and any changes arising from the consultation process will be provided out of session after the consultation period closes, to facilitate finalisation of the standards in December 2009.

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[illegible]



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IN CONFIDENCE

**Osteopathy Board of Australia  
English language skills standard**

**Summary**

All applicants must be able to demonstrate English language skills at IELTS academic level 7 or the equivalent, and the Board may require this in a number of ways.

An internationally qualified applicant or an applicant who is an international student must have the necessary English language skills for registration purposes by achieving a minimum score of 7 in the IELTS academic module, OET or specified alternatives (see 'Definitions', below).

Test results will generally need to be obtained within two years, but preferably within 12 months prior to applying for registration. The Board may grant an exemption in specified circumstances.

**Scope of application**

This standard applies to all applicants seeking registration or renewal of registration and registrants under the national law.

**Requirements**

An applicant who is:

- (a) an internationally qualified applicant or
- (b) an applicant who did not complete their secondary education in English and in one of the countries specified in exemption one below

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:

1. The applicant must have achieved a minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).
2. Alternative English proficiency tests that will be accepted are:
  - (a) completion and an overall pass in the OET with grades A or B only in each of the four components; or
  - (b) other tests as approved by the Board (to be specified in the standard).
3. Results must have been obtained within two years prior to applying for registration.
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.
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; for example, by secure internet login.

### Exemptions

1. The Board may grant an exemption where the applicant provides evidence that:
  - (a) they completed secondary education that was taught and assessed in English, and
  - (b) 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:
    - Canada
    - Republic of Ireland
    - New Zealand
    - United Kingdom
    - United States of America
    - South Africa
    - Australia.
2. The Board may grant an exemption where an applicant applies for limited registration in special circumstances, such as:
  - to perform a demonstration in clinical techniques
  - to undertake research that involves limited or no patient contact
  - to undertake postgraduate study or training while working in an appropriately supported environment that will ensure patient safety is not compromised.

These special circumstances exemptions will generally be subject to conditions requiring the use of a translator and/or supervision by a registered health practitioner.
3. The Board reserves the right at any time to revoke an exemption and/or require an applicant to undertake a specified English language test.

### Board specific requirements

(Specify any Board specific requirements)

### Definitions

**IELTS** means the International English Language Testing System 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 (see <http://www.ielts.org/>).

**OET** means Occupational English Test (OET) administered by the Centre for Adult Education (see <http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/>).

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

### Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

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