



Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Nursing and Midwifery
Optometry

Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Fact Sheet: Registration Types

Under the National Law, National Boards can grant a number of different types of registration to an eligible practitioner.

General registration

This type of registration may be granted to practitioners who meet the eligibility and qualifications requirements set out in sections 52 and 53 of the National Law, and who meet any registration standards issued by the Board.

In general, practitioners who hold general registration have graduated from a Board approved, accredited program of study in the profession and completed any required period of supervised practice or internship.

Specialist registration

This type of registration may be granted to practitioners who meet the eligibility and qualifications requirements set out in sections 57 and 58 of the National Law, and who meet any registration standards issued by the Board.

The Ministerial Council has approved the 'recognised specialties' for which specialist registration may be granted under the National Law. It has also approved the specialist titles for each recognised specialty.

From 1 July 2010, specialist registration will apply to suitably qualified practitioners from the following professions:

- Dentistry (13 recognised specialties: Dento-maxillofacial radiology, Endodontics, Oral and maxillofacial surgery, Oral medicine, Oral pathology, Oral surgery, Orthodontics, Paediatric dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Public health dentistry (Community dentistry), Special needs dentistry, Forensic odontology)
- Medicine (23 recognised specialties: See Appendix One)
- Podiatry (1 recognised specialty: Podiatric surgery)

Some practitioners may be eligible for - and may hold - both general registration and specialist registration at the same time. Others, for example, people who qualified overseas and do not hold an approved undergraduate or entry level qualification, may hold specialist registration but may be limited to practising only in their specialty.

Limited registration

This type of registration may be granted to practitioners who **do not qualify** for general or specialist registration, but who meet the eligibility and qualifications requirements set out in sections 65-70 of the National Law and any registration standards issued by the Board.

Under section 72 of the National Law, limited registration may not be renewed more than three times, but a new application may be made.

There are four sub-types of limited registration:

1. **Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice**

This type of registration may be granted to practitioners who hold qualifications in the profession, but who are required by the Board to practise under supervision or to sit an examination or assessment, to qualify for general or specialist registration.

2. **Limited registration for area of need**

This type of registration may be granted to overseas trained practitioners who do not qualify for general or specialist registration but who have skills and qualifications considered sufficient to work under supervision in a particular role or position in a geographic location or specific health service.

Under section 67 of the National Law, it is the responsible Minister (or delegate) in a State or Territory who decides whether an area of need exists. An area of need is when there are insufficient health practitioners to meet the needs of people living in the area.

3. **Limited registration for teaching or research**

This type of registration may be granted to practitioners who are not qualified for or do not intend to engage in clinical practice, but are qualified to fill a teaching or research position in the profession.

4. **Limited registration in the public interest**

This type of registration may be granted to practitioners who do not qualify for general or specialist registration, but who hold qualifications in the profession and who may be visiting from overseas for a short period, filling a locum position or exchanging practice with a local practitioner. The Board must be satisfied that it is in the public interest for the practitioner to practise the profession given the practitioner's qualifications and experience.

Provisional registration

This type of registration may be granted to a practitioner who meets the eligibility and qualifications requirements set out in sections 62 and 63 of the National Law, and any registration standards issued by the Board.

This type of registration is intended for practitioners in a profession who have completed a Board approved, accredited qualification in the profession, but are required to undertake a period of supervised practice or internship to be eligible for general registration.

Under the National Scheme only three professions have internship requirements for general registration: medicine, pharmacy and psychology.

Non-practising registration

This type of registration may be granted to a practitioner who meets the eligibility and qualification requirements set out in sections 62 and 63 of the National Law, and any registration standard issued by the Board.

This type of registration is available to practitioners who have previously held general or specialist registration in a profession, but who do not wish to practise the profession during the registration period. The National Law states that a practitioner who holds non-practising registration in a profession **must not practise** the profession. To 'practise the profession' has been defined by National Boards as:

any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct nonclinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

Student registration

This type of registration is granted to people who are enrolled in an approved program of study that qualifies them for general registration in a profession, or people undertaking clinical training that has been arranged by an education provider, with the exception of psychology students who are enrolled in an Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited higher degree. These psychology students are required to be registered as a provisional psychologist from the commencement of their enrolment. They will need to apply for provisional registration if they are not registered in their State or Territory on 30 June 2010.

Students enrolled in approved programs of study do not need to make an application for registration. After they have enrolled in the program of study, their education provider is required to provide the relevant National Board with a list of enrolled students. On receiving this list, the National Board will register the students. A student's registration ends when they have completed their program of study, or when the student ceases to be enrolled in the program of study.

The Board's power in relation to registered students are limited to students who:

1. may be suffering from an impairment
2. have been charged with or found guilty of an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more or
3. have breached a condition of their registration.

Students who are not already registered with a State or Territory Board will not be registered in the national scheme until March 2011.

20 April 2010

Appendix One:

List of specialties, fields of specialty practice, and related specialist titles for Medicine

Proposed specialty	Proposed fields of specialty practice	Proposed specialist titles
Addiction medicine	—	Specialist in addiction medicine
Anaesthesia	—	Specialist anaesthetist
Dermatology	—	Specialist dermatologist
Emergency medicine	—	Specialist emergency physician
General practice	—	Specialist general practitioner
Intensive care medicine	—	Specialist intensive care physician
Medical administration	—	Specialist medical administrator
Obstetrics and gynaecology		Specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist
	Gynaecological oncology	Specialist gynaecological oncologist
	Maternal–fetal medicine	Specialist in maternal–fetal medicine
	Obstetrics and gynaecological ultrasound	Specialist in obstetrics and gynaecological ultrasound
	Reproductive endocrinology and infertility	Specialist in reproductive endocrinology and infertility
	Urogynaecology	Specialist urogynaecologist
Occupational and environmental medicine	—	Specialist occupational and environmental physician
Ophthalmology	—	Specialist ophthalmologist
Paediatrics and child health		Specialist paediatrician
	Clinical genetics	Specialist paediatric clinical geneticist
	Community child health	Specialist in community child health
	General paediatrics	Specialist general paediatrician
	Neonatal and perinatal medicine	Specialist neonatologist
	Paediatric cardiology	Specialist paediatric cardiologist
	Paediatric clinical pharmacology	Specialist paediatric clinical pharmacologist
	Paediatric emergency medicine	Specialist paediatric emergency physician
	Paediatric endocrinology	Specialist paediatric endocrinologist
	Paediatric gastroenterology and hepatology	Specialist paediatric gastroenterologist and hepatologist
	Paediatric haematology	Specialist paediatric haematologist
	Paediatric immunology and allergy	Specialist paediatric immunologist and allergist
	Paediatric infectious diseases	Specialist paediatric infectious diseases physician

	Paediatric intensive care medicine	Specialist paediatric intensive care physician
	Paediatric medical oncology	Specialist paediatric medical oncologist
	Paediatric nephrology	Specialist paediatric nephrologist
	Paediatric neurology	Specialist paediatric neurologist
	Paediatric nuclear medicine	Specialist paediatric nuclear medicine physician
	Paediatric palliative medicine	Specialist paediatric palliative medicine physician
	Paediatric rehabilitation medicine	Specialist paediatric rehabilitation physician
	Paediatric respiratory and sleep medicine	Specialist paediatric respiratory and sleep medicine physician
	Paediatric rheumatology	Specialist paediatric rheumatologist
Pain medicine	—	Specialist pain medicine physician
Palliative medicine		Specialist palliative medicine physician
Pathology		Specialist pathologist
	General pathology	Specialist general pathologist
	Anatomical pathology (including cytopathology)	Specialist anatomical pathologist
	Chemical pathology	Specialist chemical pathologist
	Haematology	Specialist haematologist
	Immunology	Specialist immunologist
	Microbiology	Specialist microbiologist
	Forensic pathology	Specialist forensic pathologist
Physician		Specialist physician
	Cardiology	Specialist cardiologist
	Clinical genetics	Specialist clinical geneticist
	Clinical pharmacology	Specialist clinical pharmacologist
	Endocrinology	Specialist endocrinologist
	Gastroenterology and hepatology	Specialist gastroenterologist and hepatologist
	General medicine	Specialist general physician
	Geriatric medicine	Specialist geriatrician
	Haematology	Specialist haematologist
	Immunology and allergy	Specialist immunologist and allergist
	Infectious diseases	Specialist infectious diseases physician
	Medical oncology	Specialist medical oncologist
	Nephrology	Specialist nephrologist
	Neurology	Specialist neurologist
	Nuclear medicine	Specialist nuclear medicine physician
	Respiratory and sleep medicine	Specialist respiratory and sleep medicine

		physician
	Rheumatology	Specialist rheumatologist
Psychiatry	—	Specialist psychiatrist
Public health medicine	—	Specialist public health physician
Radiation oncology	—	Specialist radiation oncologist
Radiology	Diagnostic radiology	Specialist radiologist
	Diagnostic ultrasound	Specialist radiologist
	Nuclear medicine	Specialist in nuclear medicine
Rehabilitation medicine	—	Specialist rehabilitation physician
Sexual health medicine	—	Specialist sexual health physician
Sport and exercise medicine	—	Specialist sport and exercise physician
Surgery		Specialist surgeon
	Cardio-thoracic surgery	Specialist cardio-thoracic surgeon
	General surgery	Specialist general surgeon
	Neurosurgery	Specialist neurosurgeon
	Orthopaedic surgery	Specialist orthopaedic surgeon
	Otolaryngology – head and neck surgery	Specialist otolaryngologist - head and neck surgeon
	Oral and maxillofacial surgery	Specialist oral and maxillofacial surgeon
	Paediatric surgery	Specialist paediatric surgeon
	Plastic surgery	Specialist plastic surgeon
	Urology	Specialist urologist
	Vascular surgery	Specialist vascular surgeon

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