

## Appendix 5: Orientation to the Australian healthcare system

For practitioners who have attained their primary qualifications outside Australia, their supervised practice plan must include an orientation or introduction to the Australian healthcare system.

### Orientation to the Australian healthcare system

For practitioners who have attained their primary qualifications outside of Australia, their supervised practice plan must include an orientation or introduction to the Australian healthcare system, and information on Australian culture.

Practitioners who have attained their primary qualifications outside of Australia are required to:

- complete this orientation report (self-directed, with support from the supervisor)
- submit it to the Board, with the supervised practice plan, for approval early in the supervisory period (prior to practice or within two weeks after commencing practice)

Name of registrant:	
Registration number:	
Date commenced in approved position:	

**Mark off (with a cross) each section when covered<sup>1</sup>**

#### General

Occupational therapists should be familiar with the structure of the Australian healthcare system and the roles of the various bodies with which contact will occur or which have particular areas of responsibility.

#### Orientation to the Australian healthcare system

- Structure and funding of the Australian healthcare system, interface between private and public health services
- Federal and /or State or Territory Department of Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, Medicare, WorkCover or similar authority (where applicable)
- Occupational therapy Board of Australia — registration, professional performance, conduct and health assessment and monitoring relevant under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)
- Provider and prescriber numbers (if applicable)
- Prescribing (if applicable) — Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, National Prescribing Service, therapeutic guidelines
- Referral system – (e.g. pathology, radiology, other specialists, allied health services, hospital emergency departments, Ambulance Service, community services, local support groups) the employer should provide a list of service providers and their contact details
- Other contact phone numbers — supervisors, interpreter service, drugs and poisons information service and so forth

<sup>1</sup> The checkbox can be marked 'x' if you right-click on the box and select properties, select 'checked'

**Orientation to the practice**

- Policy and procedures manual — including infection control, patient confidentiality, clinical records, complaint processes
- Information technology (IT) systems
- Profession specific bodies (e.g. Occupational therapy Association of Australia, Occupational Therapy Council)
- Occupational health and safety

**Orientation to legislation and professional practice**

- Mandatory requirements under the National Law
- Legislative framework governing practice in state or territory, including drugs and poisons legislation if applicable
- Litigation and indemnity
- Patient privacy, rights and responsibilities, patient complaints
- Patient consent
- Access to health/medical records

**Professional development**

- Occupational therapy education and training and access to clinical publications
- Therapeutic guidelines, Australian Medicines Handbook, Occupational therapists guidelines and practice standards (where applicable)

**Cultural diversity and social context of care**

- Cultural awareness and respect
- Australian society, including multiculturalism, the status of women, children and older persons
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- Reporting responsibilities for suspected child abuse and domestic violence
- Health practitioner / patient relationship

Other topics included in initial orientation:

**Signatures:**

Applicant's / registrant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's / registrant's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Principal supervisor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal supervisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

**Who do you send it to?**

All documentation should be sent to the AHPRA office in your capital city, as listed in the Contact Us section of the AHPRA website ([www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)) or below:

AHPRA GPO Box 9958 IN YOUR CAPITAL CITY	Sydney NSW 2001 Canberra ACT 2601 Melbourne VIC 3001 Brisbane QLD 4001 Adelaide SA 5001 Perth WA 6001 Hobart TAS 7001 Darwin NT 0801
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You may contact the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency on 1300 419 495 or you can lodge an enquiry at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)

For information on the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia please visit [www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au).