



Medical Board  
Ahpra

# **Policy:** Orientation requirements for specialist registration

Effective date: 21 October 2024

## 1. Background

The Medical Board of Australia's (the Board) *Registration standard: Specialist registration* (the Standard) requires all individuals to have successfully completed a Board-approved orientation to the Australian healthcare system to be eligible for specialist registration.

As recommended in the *Final Report of the Independent Review of Health Practitioner Regulatory Settings*, led by Ms Robyn Kruk AO, work is currently underway to ensure that all health practitioners are supported with appropriate training to familiarise and prepare themselves for safe practice in the Australian health system, regardless of their registration pathway.

Technology-enabled orientation activities and support networks are still being fully explored. In the meantime, the Board has endorsed a transitional approach to allow individuals to evidence satisfactory completion of a Board-approved orientation to the Australian healthcare system.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of orientation to the Australian healthcare system is to ensure that individuals effectively transition into Australian medical practice and are familiar with the structure of the Australian healthcare system, Australia's legislation and professional practice requirements, professional development, cultural diversity, social context of care, as well as local health service and employer policies and procedures.

## 3. Scope

The Board's Standard requires individuals to have successfully completed a Board-approved orientation to the Australian healthcare system to be eligible for specialist registration.

Individuals are exempt from this requirement if they are currently registered or have previously been registered and practised as a medical practitioner in Australia within the past three years.

For individuals who are not exempt and do not meet this eligibility requirement, the Board may grant specialist registration with a condition that enables them to meet this requirement.

## 4. Minimum requirements

The Board's expectation is that all new registrants are adequately orientated to practising the profession in Australia.

Orientation programs are generally completed over a period of time in the workplace in Australia. They may be provided by employers, specialist medical colleges or other organisations and may include the use of online resources.

The Board has developed an orientation report for specialist registrants which outlines the minimum orientation requirements and enables registrants to provide evidence that they have undertaken and satisfactorily completed a Board-approved orientation to the Australian healthcare system.

## 5. Mode of delivery

Orientation should be provided by the employer in the workplace in Australia, while also ensuring that individuals have access to appropriate online resources.

## 6. Evidence

Individuals will be required to submit evidence of completing orientation requirements via an orientation report, which is co-signed by their Board-approved supervisor.