

Authority

This standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council in December 2011 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law), as in force in each state and territory, with approval taking effect from 1 July 2012.

Summary

From 1 July 2012, registration is required in all states and territories to practice as an occupational therapist.

Practitioners who were registered with any one of the Australian Occupational Therapy Registration Boards (WA, SA, NT, Qld) on 30 June 2012, will automatically transition to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme commencing 1 July 2012.

Occupational therapists who, as at 1 July 2012 are practising occupational therapy and who do not automatically transition into the National Scheme on 1 July 2012, must apply to be registered. In states and territories which do not have registration prior to 1 July 2012, most occupational therapists hold an approved qualification, as listed on the Board's website. Those therapists who hold an approved qualification (within the meaning of section 53) are eligible to apply for general registration under section 52 of the National Law, and will not apply under the grandparenting transitional arrangements.

Practitioners who do not meet the qualification requirements under section 53 may be eligible to apply for registration under the grandparenting transitional arrangements.

Until 1 July 2015, individuals may be eligible to apply for registration under the 'grandparenting' provisions if they meet the requirements of section 303 of the National Law.

The intent of the grandparenting provisions is to ensure that practitioners who are legitimately practising the profession (particularly in those jurisdictions that did not require registration) are not unjustly disadvantaged because they are not automatically transitioned into the National Scheme as state or territory registrants or because they do not hold an approved qualification.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for general registration under section 303 of the National Law.

Requirements

Section 303(1) of the National Law states that an individual who applies for registration as an occupational therapist

before 1 July 2015 may be qualified for general registration in the profession if the individual:

- a) *holds a qualification or has completed training in the profession, that the National Board considers is adequate for the purposes of practising the profession;*

The Board considers completion of an approved occupational therapy qualification adequate for the purposes of practising the profession. Approved qualifications are listed on the Board's website.

or

- b) *holds a qualification or has completed training in the profession, and has completed any further study, training or supervised practice in the profession required by the Board for the purposes of this section;*

For the purposes of 303(1)(b), a person who holds an occupational therapy qualification not listed as an approved qualification, meets the requirement if he or she has successfully completed the Phase 1 and Phase 2 assessments administered by the Occupational Therapy Council (Aust & NZ). The applicant must provide the Board with a Certificate of Practical Completion.

Applicants who hold an approved qualification or a Certificate of Practical Completion as detailed in a) or b) meet the qualification requirements for general registration and will not need to apply under the Grandparenting provisions.

A person who does not meet the qualification requirements under Section 303(1) a) or b) may meet the qualification requirements under section 303(1) c) as detailed below:

has practised the profession at any time between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2012 for a consecutive period of five years or any periods together which amount to five years.

Section 303(1) of the National Law is referred to as the grandparenting provisions.

Applications for registration under grandparenting provisions

The Board will assess applicants for general registration made in accordance with Section 303(1) a) to c) on their individual merit.

Applicants for general registration in accordance with section 303(1)(c) must provide the following evidence to the satisfaction of the Board or its delegate in support of their application:

- a) a declaration from the applicant that they have practised the profession for five years full time or a part-time equivalent;
- b) a minimum of four references, from people attesting to their competent practice as an occupational therapist who can be contacted by the Board. At least two of these references must be from occupational therapists who hold an approved qualification as listed on the Board's website, and two from either employers or supervisors;
- c) documentary evidence of practising occupational therapy for a minimum of five years fulltime, or part-time equivalent between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2012;
- d) copies of position descriptions, certified by their employer and describing the nature of qualifications or knowledge required, skills required, duties performed and duration of employment; and
- e) without breaching obligations of confidentiality and privacy or employer policy, four de-identified case studies which illustrate clinical occupational therapy practice with clients. Each case study must provide an account of the client's case history and rationale for occupational therapy intervention and include a summary of the initial assessment undertaken including the rationale for any assessment tools used, interpretation of assessment results, goals set, occupational therapy intervention, use of occupational therapy knowledge, skills, theory and evidence in planning and conducting intervention, methods used to evaluate the intervention and the clinical outcomes achieved.

The Board may require applicants to provide additional evidence of their qualifications, training or further study. The Board may also require an applicant to undertake an examination or an assessment in accordance with section 80(1)(d) of the National Law. This may, for instance, include assessment against the Australian Minimum Competency Standards for New Graduate Occupational Therapists.

Definitions

Approved program of study means an accredited program of study approved under section 49(1) by the National Board and included in the list published on the Board's website, under section 49(5).

As a transitional arrangement, the National Law also enables a program of study that provides a qualification for registration in a registering jurisdiction (WA, SA, NT, Qld) to be taken to be an approved program of study as if it had been approved by the Board under the National Law.

A list of approved programs of study will be published on the Board's section of the AHPRA website.

Approved qualification – for occupational therapy – means a qualification obtained by completing a Board approved program of study for the profession. Approved qualifications will be listed on the Board's website.

Grandparenting Provisions are defined as the transitional provisions outlined in section 303 of the National Law

Practice means 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.

Reference

Rodger, S. Springfield, L. Banks, B and Ryan, S. (2010) *Australian Minimum Competency Standards for New Graduate Occupational Therapists (ACSOT) 2010*, Fitzroy, OT Australia Ltd.

Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2012 and will expire on 1 July 2015.

