

### Authority

This standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council in December 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

This standard sets out how the Board will apply section 38(1)(e) of the National Law.

All registered occupational therapists are required to maintain their competence to practise. The Board requires that a minimum of six months full-time equivalent occupational therapy practice has been undertaken during the five-year period immediately prior to commencement of the registration period.

All registered occupational therapists are required to declare their practising status at renewal.

A practitioner who has been absent from practice for five or more years will be required to demonstrate his or her current practice competency to the Board in order to maintain or renew their registration as an occupational therapist.

### Scope of application

This standard applies to all persons applying for initial registration or renewal of registration.

It does not apply to students or practitioners who have non-practising registration.

### Exemptions

An applicant who has not practised for a minimum of six months full-time equivalent in the previous five years can hold provisional registration while undertaking a period of supervised practice required by the Board.

### Requirements

1. Upon application or renewal of registration, all occupational therapists must declare whether or not they have practised within the five years before the first day of the renewal period.
2. Applicants returning to practice after an absence of five or more years are required to demonstrate current competence and registration will be at the Board's discretion. The Board may refuse registration or renewal of registration or grant registration/renewal subject to conditions.

3. Applicants returning to practice after an absence of five or more years will be required to complete the minimum of 30 hours of continuing professional development as set out in the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Registration Standard. This must be completed in the 12 month period prior to applying for re-registration. In addition, applicants will be required to undertake a period of supervised practice of not less than 3 months full-time equivalent, and supervisor assessment against the Australian Minimum Competency Standards for New Graduate Occupational Therapists.
4. The Board's assessment of applications and renewals that do not meet the recency of practice requirement will take into account the following:
  - a) The practitioner's registration and practice history
  - b) The period of absence from the profession
  - c) Activities related to the practice of occupational therapy undertaken in the previous five years
  - d) History of CPD completed
  - e) Any additional study undertaken or qualifications obtained during the period of absence from practice.
5. At the Board's discretion the applicant may be required to complete:
  - a) An approved course of study or retraining program;
  - b) An approved examination or assessment of competence.

The Board may conduct periodic audits to ensure compliance with this standard.

If audited, registrants must provide documentary evidence of practice undertaken in the five years before the first day of the last renewal period.

### Definitions

**Continuing professional development** is the means by which members of the profession maintain, improve, and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence and develop the personal and professional qualities required throughout their professional lives.

**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.

**Recency of practice** means that a practitioner has maintained recent practice in the profession since qualifying or obtaining registration.

### 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. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.