



Occupational Therapy
Board of Australia | AHPRA

National Registration for Occupational Therapists: from 1 July 2012

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Background

- March 2008 - COAG agreed to establish a national scheme
- National Law adopted 2009 onwards
- The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) commenced nationally on 1 July 2010
- 10 health professions are regulated
- OT and 3 other professions will join NRAS from 1 July 2012
- The National Scheme strengthens protection of the public and streamlines registration across jurisdictions.

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Who does what?



National Board

- Protection of the public by regulating practice of occupational therapy
- Operations and powers governed by National Law

AHPRA

- Maintains the register
- Investigates notifications and complaints
- Supports work of the Boards
- Operations and powers governed by the National Law

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Key functions of the Board



- Register suitably qualified and competent persons
- Decide the requirements for registration
- Develop standards, codes and guidelines
- Approve accredited programs of study
- Oversee the assessment of overseas trained applicants for registration via their accreditation authority
- Oversee the receipt, assessment and investigation of notifications (complaints) on health, performance and conduct – **except for events in NSW**
- Establish panels to conduct hearings of health and performance matters

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The Occupational Therapy Board of Australia



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Occupational therapists **MUST** be registered **ON 1 July 2012**



Practitioners who are **currently registered** with a state or territory registration board will **automatically transition** into the National Scheme.

- Make sure your contact details are up to date with your current S/T Board
- Make sure you are aware of the registration standards, codes and guidelines for occupational therapists in the National Scheme (eg CPD, PII)
- No need to apply for registration
- No application fee
- When your renewal falls due, renew in the National Scheme
- Annual renewal **30 November** each year

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Occupational therapists MUST be registered ON 1 July 2012



Practitioners who are **not currently registered** will need to **apply to register**:

- Registration forms will be available from February 2012.
Submit your application form **by 30 March 2012** to allow for processing time by 1 July 2012
- Pay a one-off application fee **\$280** + a pro rata registration fee of 5 months **\$117** (for the period of 1 July 2012 to 30 November 2012) (**total \$397**)
- Then, an annual renewal **30 November** every year (**\$280 each year**)

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Getting ready to apply for registration:



Read:

- Make sure you are aware of the **registration standards, codes and guidelines** for occupational therapists in the National Scheme (eg CPD, PII)
- Print off and use the Application Form (footer dated 22 February 2012)

Find:

- **Qualification(s)** – certified copy or original transcripts
- **Registration** – details of any previous periods of registration
- **Curriculum vitae** – practice history for Recency of Practice (if applicable)
- **Proof of Identity** – standard documents

Schedule:

- **submit your application by 30 March 2012** to facilitate processing by 1 July 2012
- Pay Fees (application fee + pro rata registration fee)
- Annual registration renewals due 30 November

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You must register

- To use the title 'occupational therapist'
- Claim to be qualified to practise as an occupational therapist.
- You may also need to register if you work in a role not titled occupational therapist. Additional guidance is provided on the Board's website.
- It is important to note that practising as an occupational therapist is not limited to providing direct clinical services to clients.

The definition of practice is broad:

“Any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. Practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct non-clinical 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.”

Notifications (includes complaints):

- Practitioners, employers and education providers are all **mandated** by law to report:
 - [notifiable conduct](#) relating to a practitioner or
 - in the case of a student, an impairment that may place the public at substantial risk of harm.
- Members of the public can [make a notification](#) to AHPRA about the conduct, health and performance of a practitioner or student (**voluntary notification**)
- In NSW, managed by Health Care Complaints Commission but decisions impacting on registration apply nationally.

Mandatory notification:

By practitioners, employers and education providers

Notifiable conduct:

- Intoxicated by alcohol or drugs
- Engaged in sexual misconduct (in connection with professional practise)
- Impairment (that would place the public at substantial harm)
- Significant departure from professional standards

For employers and managers:



Before 1 July 2012:

- Be aware of the Registration Standards (eg CPD)
- Provide supporting information where possible (eg Professional Indemnity Insurance details)
- Ensure occupational therapists are aware of requirement to register

From 1 July 2012:

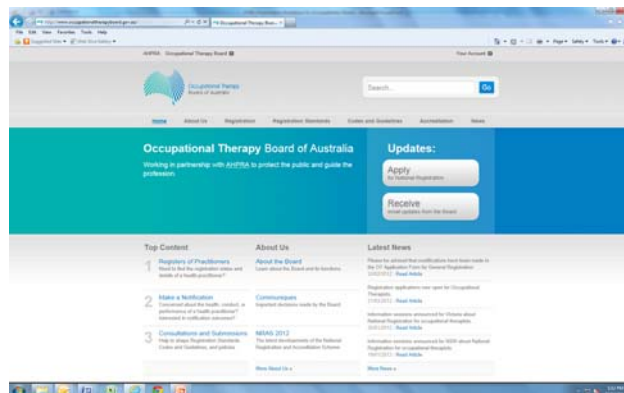
- Check registration status of commencing and continuing occupational therapists (annual check)
- Consider 'eligibility for registration' for position descriptions
- Requirements for mandatory notifications
- Facilitate documentation of supervision and other activities for CPD

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Further Information

www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au

www.ahpra.gov.au



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Standards, codes and guidelines

Five mandatory registration standards:

- Continuing professional development (Standard and Guideline)
- Criminal history
- English language skills
- Professional indemnity insurance
- Recency of practice

Additional Standards, Codes and Guidelines:

- Grand-parenting registration standard to provide transitional arrangements for qualifications
- Further codes and guidelines determined, as needed (eg Code of Conduct, Advertising, Mandatory Notifications)

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Continuing Professional Development **Registration Std**

- Requires minimum **30 hours** of CPD annually to maintain and improve competence in area of practice
- Until **30 Nov 2013** to complete first 30 hours (17 months)
- Formal learning (max 25), informal learning (max 25), engagement with the profession (max 10)
- Can apply for partial exemption in special circumstances
- Periodic audits
- Does not apply to students or to a person granted 'non-practising' registration

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Continuing Professional Development **Guidelines**



- CPD Guidelines to accompany the CPD Registration Standard
- The Guidelines provide further information on:
 - activities that qualify as CPD
 - examples of partial exemption, for special circumstances
 - record keeping
 - keeping a CPD portfolio
 - cost-neutral examples of CPD activities, including options for rural and remote area practitioners
 - a CPD template example (available from website)

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Professional Indemnity Insurance Registration Std



- National Law requires that a registered health practitioner must not practise their profession unless they have appropriate PII arrangements in place
- Ensure cover in place for any practice (incl. unpaid)
- Onus on practitioner to ensure cover is adequate and complies with the standard
- Declaration at application and renewal
- PII does not apply to a person granted 'non-practising' registration

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Recency of Practice Registration Std



- At least 6 months FTE in any 5 year period
- Declaration at initial application and renewal
- The nature, extent, period and recency of any previous practice in the profession must be sufficient to meet the requirements approved by the Board
- An exemption has been included for practitioners to apply for provisional registration to undertake a period of supervised practice
- Does not apply to students or to a person granted 'non-practising' registration

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English Language Registration Std



English language skills for safe and competent practice.

- Applies to applicants for initial registration (not students) who are:
 - Internationally qualified *or*
 - Who qualify for registration, but did not complete their secondary education in English
- Submit test results via IELTS 7 or OET grades A or B in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing, speaking)
- Test results in one sitting, obtained within two years prior to applying to register (note: older results acceptable, if proof of being actively employed as an OT, in one of the countries listed in the Std)

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English Language Registration Std



Exemptions may apply:

- Where secondary education was undertaken and completed in one of these countries (i.e. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, UK, USA)
- Limited registration under special circumstances (conditions may apply eg supervision, an interpreter)

Standard is consistent with the English language requirement used by:

- Occupational Therapy Council (Aust & NZ)
- NOOSR education profiles
- Other National Boards

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Grandparenting Registration Std



- Special provisions under s303 of the National Law for transitional arrangements for qualifications
- Eligible to apply for general registration if:
 - a) Holds an approved qualification or completed adequate training (as listed)
 - b) Holds a qualification (not listed) but undertaken any further study, training or supervised practice (Phase 1 and 2 assessments via OTC / COTRB with CPC)
 - c) **Not meet either of the above, but has practiced the profession at any time between 1 July 2002 – 30 June 2012 for a consecutive period of five years, or any periods together which amount to five years**

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Criminal History Registration Std (Common Standard across all professions)



The Board takes into account:

- Nature/gravity of offence/alleged offence
- Period elapsed since offence
- Whether finding of guilt
- Any sentence imposed
- Age of practitioner and any victim
- Whether since decriminalised
- Behaviour since offence/allegation
- Likelihood of future threat to patients
- Additional relevant information
- Periodic audits

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Remember:

**Occupational therapists MUST be registered
ON 1 July 2012**

**Lodge your application for registration by Friday
30 March 2012**

