

Media release

5 October 2012

Final year occupational therapy students can apply for registration now

Occupational therapy students who will be completing studies at the end of 2012 can submit their application for registration as an occupational therapist.

Online graduate applications for registration as an occupational therapist will soon be available. However, applications can also be made by completing a paper application form. All applications require students to return some supporting documents to AHPRA by mail.

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia Chair, Dr Mary Russell, said graduates who intended practising under the protected title of 'occupational therapist' must make an application for general registration.

Dr Russell said a graduate must also meet the National Board's registration requirements to become a registered health practitioner.

Registration standards which must be met by graduating students who apply for registration relate to:

- criminal history,
- English language skills
- professional indemnity insurance, and
- an undertaking to meet the National Board's continuing professional development (CPD) requirements, including completing a minimum 30 hours of CPD in each registration year.

'Graduates need to be a registered health practitioner before they can start practising as an occupational therapist and are urged to apply for registration four to six weeks before completing their course,' Dr Russell said.

'Graduates are encouraged to read the information available at www.ahpra.gov.au under [Graduate Applications](#) in preparation for when online applications open in approximately mid-October.'

There are five simple steps to graduate registration:

1. Students apply for registration 4 to 6 weeks before completing their course at www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications/Streamlined-Graduate-Application-Forms.aspx to download a hard copy application form
2. Applicants can fill out an online application (when it becomes available) at www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications/Apply.aspx. All applications require some documents to be sent to AHPRA by mail

3. Education providers advise AHPRA when applicants are eligible to graduate
4. AHPRA finalises assessment, confirms registration, publishes new graduates' names on the Register of Practitioners and sends out registration certificates
5. New graduates registered with their profession's National Board are eligible to start working as soon as their name is published on the Register of Practitioners

For more information

- Go to the Graduate Applications Website at www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx for FAQs and links to more information
- Go to the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia [website](#)
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200