

Statement from the Medical Radiation Practice and Occupational Therapy Boards of Australia

30 March 2012

Demonstrating English language skills for overseas qualified practitioners

The Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia and Occupational Therapy Board of Australia (the Boards) acknowledge that there are a number of experienced practitioners who have been practising for many years but who will be applying for registration for the first time. The Boards have determined that some of these practitioners may qualify for special conditions that will allow them to register without undertaking one of the prescribed English language examinations described in the Boards' English language skills registration standards.

The special conditions uphold the requirements of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory while recognising the circumstances of experienced practitioners from previously unregulated jurisdictions.

Practitioners who have practised in Australia (or one of the other countries listed in the Boards' English Language Skills Standard) for five years or more in the last 10 years, or who have previously completed an approved assessment through a professional body that involved a period of supervised practice including an assessment of the practitioner's English language skills, may qualify for the conditions. The conditions will require these practitioners to nominate a referee who can confirm their ability to communicate effectively in English for the purpose of professional practice.

For practitioners who have practised in Australia (or one of the other countries listed in the Board's English Language Skills Standard) for less than five years in the last 10 years, the Boards will consider special conditions to allow them to practise under a board-approved supervisory arrangement for 12 months to allow them to sit and pass one of the required English language examinations.

Practitioners can apply at any time for a condition on their registration to be removed if there has been a material change in their circumstances.

Further details on who may be a referee or supervisor, and a standard assessment report template for completion by referees or supervisors, will be available on the website shortly.

The Boards recommend that practitioners submit their application for registration as soon as possible to minimise the risk of disruptions to their practise on 1 July.

For more information

- Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia: www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au
- Occupational Therapy Board of Australia: www.occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)