

Authority

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

Summary

To ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners are able to practise competently and safely, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners must be able to demonstrate recency of practice within their profession.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners returning to practice, the specific requirement for recency of practice depends on the length of absence from the field and the length of practice prior to absence.

Upon applying for initial registration or renewal of registration, practitioners will be required to make a declaration about their recency of practice.

Scope of application

This standard applies to:

- a) all applicants seeking registration in a practising category, or renewal of registration.
- b) all applicants equally, whether they practise full time or part-time or whether the work is remunerated or not.

This standard does not apply to student registrants or those with non practising registration.

Requirements

1. Applicants who have not practised for the previous three years

The Board may grant general registration with conditions to an applicant who is otherwise eligible for registration but has not practised for at least three months full time equivalent in the previous three years. The conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- successfully completing a first aid certificate
- successfully completing an assessment against the identified units within the Certificate IV Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) and
- working under the supervision of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner,

Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife or Medical Practitioner.

2. Applicants who have not practised for the previous three to five years

The Board may grant registration with conditions to an applicant who is otherwise eligible for registration, but has not practised for at least six months full time equivalent in the previous three to five years. The conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- successfully completing a first aid certificate
- successfully completing an assessment against the identified units within the Certificate IV Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice)
- Working under a specified level of supervision of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife or Medical Practitioner
- Providing the Board with supervision reports at six monthly intervals or within a timeframe as determined by the Board from date of commencing employment

3. Applicants who have not practised for the previous five to ten years

The Board may grant registration with conditions to an applicant who has not practised for twelve months full time equivalent in the previous five to ten years.

The Board may also determine that the applicant is not eligible for registration and is required to meet the qualification level set by the Board.

Conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- successfully completing a first aid certificate
- successfully completing an assessment against the identified units within the Certificate IV Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice)
- working under the direct supervision of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife or Medical Practitioner
- providing the Board with supervision reports at one month and then at six monthly intervals thereafter; or, within a timeframe as determined by the Board.

Applicants will be required to declare that they meet this standard annually upon application for renewal.

The Board may audit compliance against this standard and may request evidence that this standard has been met.

4. Applicants who have completed their qualification more than two years prior to seeking initial registration may be required to demonstrate competency by:

- working under the direct supervision of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife or Medical Practitioner for a period of time or
- undertaking an assessment against the identified units within the Certificate IV Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) or
- an assessment determined suitable by the Board.

Exemptions

Practitioners applying for or renewing non practising registration.

Definitions

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner means a person registered by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board. The practitioner may use the titles:

- Aboriginal health practitioner,
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, or
- Torres Strait Islander health practitioner.

A First Aid Certificate means a first aid certificate or equivalent as determined by the Board.

A Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (practice) means the HLT43907 or equivalent as determined by the Board.

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 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.

Clinical practice means direct clinical care of patients, using the current knowledge, skills and attitudes of the profession, whether remunerated or not, and regardless of job title.

Recent graduate means a person applying for registration for the first time whose qualification for registration was awarded not more than two years prior to the date of their application.

Recency of practice means that a practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in, their profession and can demonstrate that they practise the profession competently and safely.

Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2012. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.