

## Media release

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5 October 2012

### Online applications for registration open soon for final year students

Students of the approved program of study, the Certificate VI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice), who will graduate at the end of 2012 can go online soon to apply for registration as a health practitioner.

An online graduate registration service for final year students was launched by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in May 2011.

The service enables students to apply for registration early before completing their course and aims to smooth the path from study to work in five simple steps.

Online graduate applications for registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner will open in mid-October, however hard copy applications can be made now. All applications require students to return some supporting documents to AHPRA by mail.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia Chair Peter Pangquee said graduates of the [approved program of study](#) must apply for general registration if:

- they intended practising under the protected title 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner' or
- they are required by their employer to use one of the following protected titles:
  - 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner'
  - 'Aboriginal Health Practitioner', or
  - 'Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner'.

Graduates who complete the approved program of study, but who are not currently required to use the protected titles, may also apply for registration.

Mr Pangquee said a graduate of an approved program of study must also meet the National Board's registration requirements to become a registered health practitioner.

New graduate registration standards relate to:

- criminal history,
- English language skills, and
- professional indemnity insurance.

'Graduates need to be a registered health practitioner before they can start practising using one of the protected titles and are urged to go online and apply for registration four to six weeks before completing their course,' Mr Pangquee said.

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

There are five simple steps to graduate registration:

1. Students apply for registration 4 to 6 weeks before completing their course at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx>
2. Applicants fill out an online application (if eligible) or download an application form. 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 <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx> for FAQs and links to more information
- For registration enquiries or difficulties in accessing the online application form: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200