

Authority

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

Summary and Purpose of Standard

Only persons who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander are eligible for registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner.

The purpose of this standard is to enhance the quality of holistic health care that is provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners to the community in a culturally safe manner.

If the individual fails to meet the requirements in this registration standard, that individual would be unsuitable to be registered in the profession.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants.

Requirements

1. To be eligible to apply for registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner a person must be:
 - a) an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and
 - b) identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and
 - c) be accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in the community in which he or she lives or did live.
2. Applicants must be able to provide evidence with regard to the above 1a) b) c) upon application. Evidence may include, but is not limited to a letter, to the satisfaction of the Board, stating that a person is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or both and is accepted as such by a recognised Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation. The letter must carry the organisation's letterhead, hold the organisation's official seal and be dated and signed by a person authorised by the organisation.
3. Pursuant to section 80, of the National Law the Board may seek further evidence of a registrant's claim to be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

Definition

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.

Review

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