

# Are you about to graduate as a health practitioner?



**Avoid delays – read this!**

## Find out what you need to do for registration

Before we can register you, we first need to determine whether you meet the requirements for registration as a health practitioner. For this we need your graduate results which we receive direct from your education provider. We also need any other documents required by your National Board to prove that you've met their registration standards. You need to include all relevant information in your application including, if relevant:

- health impairments
- criminal history, and
- how you will meet the English language skills requirement.

It's important that you provide as much information as possible with your application because assessment may be delayed if we need to contact you for further information.

You also need to make sure your photo ID documents are certified correctly as incorrectly certified documents will cause delay.

## Certifying photo ID documents

It's important that you get your photographic proof of identity documents certified correctly.

On documents with a photograph such as your passport or driver's licence you must make sure the authorised officer writes or stamps:

'I certify that this is a true copy of the original and the photograph is a true likeness of the person presenting the document as sighted by me.'

To make sure your documents are certified correctly, please download or print the guide '[Certifying Documents: Instructions for applicants and authorised officers](#)' and take it with you to get your documents certified.

The guide provides a full list of authorised officers who can certify your documents (including teachers, bank officers, public servants, permanent employees of AHPRA and members of the following health professions: chiropractic, dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, and psychology).

## Criminal history

In your application you need to tell us about any criminal history.

Criminal history includes every:

- conviction for an offence
- plea of guilty or finding of guilt by a court for an offence, whether or not a conviction is recorded for the offence, or
- charge for an offence.

You need to supply a complete criminal history with your application irrespective of the time that has lapsed since the charge was laid or the finding of guilt was made. This is because under the National Law, spent convictions legislation does not apply to criminal history disclosure requirements.

We conduct an Australian criminal history check on every applicant. This cost is covered in your application fee.

Your National Board will decide whether your criminal history is relevant to the practise of the profession.

Your application will be significantly delayed if you do not declare your criminal history in your application and a criminal history is found during the screening process.

If you have lived overseas for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult you will also need to complete an international criminal history check. It is your responsibility to request and pay for your international criminal history check through an AHPRA-approved supplier. We cannot register you until we have received the results of your criminal history checks.

The results will be passed to us directly.

More information, including the list of AHPRA-approved suppliers, is available on our [International criminal history checks](#) page.

## Health impairments

You need to tell us about any impairments that may affect your ability to practise.

Impairment means any physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder (including substance abuse or dependence), that detrimentally affects or is likely to detrimentally affect your ability to safely practise the profession.

Having an impairment will not necessarily prevent you from practising. However, we need to know what you are doing to manage your impairment. We may require current documentation about your diagnosis and/or treatment plan and a statement regarding your current fitness to practise from your treating health practitioner. It's important that you provide all details of any impairments and how you are managing them when you submit your application. Your application may be delayed if we need to contact you for further information.

## English language skills

One of the mandatory standards that you'll need to meet to become registered is English language skills. That's because as a health practitioner, you need to be able to understand patients and respond appropriately to their concerns or preferences.

There are a few pathways for how you may meet the English language skills standard, including:

- the primary language pathway
- combined secondary and tertiary qualifications pathway
- the extended education pathway, and
- by sitting an English language skills test via an AHPRA-approved provider.

You may be required to provide evidence of how you meet your Board's *English language skills registration standard*.

If you haven't completed six years of continuous full-time education taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country, you may need to sit an English language test. Recognised countries include: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America. With the exception of South Africa, these countries are recognised by the Department of Home Affairs for the purposes of exempting applicants from having to sit a test to demonstrate English language skills. More information about recognised countries and the English language skills registration standard can be found on each Board website, accessible via the [Registration Standards](#) page.

Please note that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board of Australia and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia have different pathways for English language skills, please visit their websites to find out more.

## How do I apply?

You can apply for registration on line in three easy steps.

1. Create an account using the [online services portal](#) and complete your application
2. Upload your documents and pay the required fees. Check that you have provided everything including certified copies of your proof of identity.
3. Wait for AHPRA to receive your results from your education provider.

You can [track the progress](#) of your application online.

Once we've received your graduate results from your education provider and are satisfied that you have met all the requirements for registration, we will then finalise your application.

## What happens next?

After we have assessed your complete application, we will register you, register you with conditions or refuse your application.

We will let you know the outcome of your application. If you are registered, we will publish your name on the [national register of health practitioners](#), accessible from the AHPRA and Boards websites.

Once your name is on the national register of practitioners, you can start work as a registered health practitioner!

## What do I do if I'm not able to apply online?

Our online application form asks a series of questions to ensure you are eligible to apply for registration online. If you're not eligible to, or can't apply online, please go to your [National Board's](#) website and click through to the Forms page to download the relevant form. More information is available on our [Other Graduate Application Types](#) webpage.

## How long does it take to assess my application?

Once we've received your graduate results from your education provider, we aim to finalise your application within two weeks. That's if you've provided everything you need to prove you've met the requirements for registration. A few education providers submit graduate results in late October with the majority sending through their graduate results in late November to mid-December.

While we can't finalise your application until after we've received your graduate results, we begin to assess your application beforehand so that it's ready to go pending your results. That's why we encourage you to submit your application early and to check whether you've provided everything you need to prove that you've met the requirements for registration. This is particularly important during end-of-year peak graduate period where we receive approximately 25,000 applications within a few months.

It may take longer to assess your application if:

- your ID documents are not correctly certified
- you have not provided all the information required
- you have indicated you have a health impairment that requires more detailed assessment
- you do not declare your criminal history, or
- there is a delay in receiving the results of [International criminal history checks](#) from an AHPRA-approved supplier.