

## Frequently asked questions

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January 2012

### Frequently asked questions: The move to national registration

- Who needs to register?
- How do I register?
- Renewals
- Registration Fees

#### 1. Who needs to register?

Anyone who calls themselves a medical radiation practitioner, diagnostic radiographer, medical imaging technologist, radiographer, nuclear medicine scientist, nuclear medicine technologist or radiation therapist and is working under that title must be registered from 1 July 2012. To be permitted to practice under any of these titles in any state or territory in Australia from 1 July 2012 you must be registered with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (the National Board).

The above titles are protected under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the National Law), as in force in each state and territory, for use by persons that hold national registration in the relevant profession. If a person does not hold registration and uses any of these titles, they risk being in breach of the National Law and the Board may take action.

#### 2. How do I register with the National Board?

Registration application forms will be available on the Board's website ([www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)) from February 2012 and at any of the state and territory AHPRA offices.

Medical radiation practitioners who are registered with the NT, Qld, Vic, Tas, ACT or WA registration Board on 30 June 2012 will automatically transition to the national scheme. They will not need to apply for registration. These practitioners will not pay an application fee, but will need to pay an annual renewal fee at the end of their registration period.

Medical radiation practitioners who will be working in a medical radiation practitioner role from 1 July 2012 who are not currently registered are encouraged to submit their application for registration to AHPRA by 31 March 2012. Submitting your application early will give you a better chance of having your application processed by 1 July 2012 and will help AHPRA to manage this volume of applications.

### 3. How much is my registration fee?

The general registration fee for medical radiation practitioners will be \$325 per year.

If you are applying for registration for the first time you are also required to pay an application fee of \$300.

To view details of the full fee schedule, which includes renewal fees, different fees for different categories of registration and fees for administrative processes (e.g. change of name), please go to the board's web site at [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)

Fees are tax deductible and GST free.

### 4. How are my fees used?

Board fees reflect the requirements of building and maintaining an effective regulatory system that protects the public and guides the profession. Importantly, there is no cross-subsidisation in the National Scheme so registration fees paid by medical radiation practitioners *only* fund the regulation of medical radiation practice.

The fees cover the costs of:

- setting up or reviewing registration standards
- developing National Board policies
- legal fees and tribunals related to managing notifications
- managing registration, notification and customer service systems and
- implementation.

In setting fees, the National Board has considered the resources necessary to implement a single national regulatory system and the need for prudent financial management to ensure the National Board meets its obligations effectively under the National Law.

### 5. What is the difference between a registration fee and an application fee?

An *application* fee is a once off fee, to cover the administrative costs, including things like criminal history checks associated with processing a new application.

A *registration* fee provides you with registration.

For new registrants, this will be from the date you first register until your annual renewal date. If you register by 1 July 2012, your initial period of registration from 1 July 2012 will be for 5 months until 30 November 2012. Your registration will then be aligned to the national cycle which renews by 30 November each year.

For those already registered with Medical radiation registration boards in the NT, Vic, ACT, Qld, WA or Tas your registration will transition on 1 July 2012, and your renewals vary:

- NT registrants - you will renew on 30 November 2012, which will align with the national renewal date.
- Vic registrants - you will renew on 30 November 2012, as above.
- ACT registrants - you will renew on 30 November 2012, as above
- Qld registrants - you will renew on 30 June 2013 and then again on 30 November 2013 to align with the national renewal date.

- WA registrants - you will renew on 30 June 2013 and then again on 30 November 2013 to align with the national renewal date.
- Tas registrants - you will renew on 31 March 2013 and then again on 30 November 2013 to align with the national renewal date.

#### **6. Are there any other fees?**

Full details of the current fees schedule can be found on the Board's website at [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)

#### **7. What if I have conditions on my current registration?**

Any conditions on your current registration will transfer to your new national registration.

#### **8. I am currently registered. Will anything about my registration change from 1 July 2012?**

It is intended that your registration remains the same, even though the words used to describe the type of registration may change. Your existing registration, including any conditions, undertakings or equivalent endorsements will be rolled over into the new registration arrangements on 1 July 2012 without the need for you to do anything.

#### **9. Will I have a new or different registration number?**

You will have a new national registration number. Your new national registration number will be recorded on your national registration certificate, along with the date that you will need to renew your registration. It will also be published on the online register of health practitioners.

#### **10. If I belong to a professional association do I still need to register with the national board?**

Yes. Belonging to a professional association is something you do because you want to do it. It is not something you have to do. Being registered is a legal requirement under the National Law if you are working as a medical radiation practitioner.

#### **11. If I work part-time, can I have a reduction in fees?**

No. The registration fee is an annual registration fee and not a fee for service. Everyone must pay the full fee at the same time every year. It is tax deductible and it is GST free.

#### **12. If I have lodged a registration application with a registration board in the NT, Qld, Vic, Tas, ACT or WA before 1 July 2012, but it has not been decided by 1 July 2012, will I have to reapply with AHPRA?**

No. Your application to any of these boards will be considered to be an application under the National Law. Although you may be asked to provide additional information required under the legislation, you will not need to reapply. However it is strongly recommended that applications with local boards be made well before 1 July 2012.

#### **13. Will I be registered for life once I am registered nationally?**

No. You must renew your registration and pay the registration renewal fee annually. You will also be required to complete and submit an annual renewal form declaring that you meet the Board's registration standards (i.e. continuing professional development, criminal history, professional indemnity insurance arrangements, recency of practice and English language requirements)

#### **14. How do I renew my registration under the National Scheme?**

AHPRA sends all practitioners a notice to renew when their registration renewal is due as well as reminders to renew. Most practitioners can renew online, but health practitioners with limited or provisional registration cannot renew online because of extra information requirements.

#### **15. What happens if I don't renew my registration by the due date?**

If you are unable to renew your registration on time, you may continue to practice for up to one month following the expiry date of your registration due to a provision in the National Law. However, a late fee is payable, and your renewal date will remain as it was, i.e. your registration will be back dated to your original renewal date.

If you do not renew within one month of your registration expiry date, your registration will be cancelled and you will need to complete an entirely new application for registration, not just a renewal.

#### **16. How does the Board define practice?**

The Board's definition of practice is:

Any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. 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.

#### **17. Can I change my mind and reapply for registration later?**

Yes, you can reapply for registration at a later date and this will require you to complete a new application and provide evidence that you meet all the Board's registration standards as if applying for the first time.

#### **18. I haven't practiced for a few years. Will I be able to register again now with the National Board?**

The Board's recency of practice registration standard outlines the scope, requirements and possible exemptions for practitioners who have been absent from practice.

Under the National Law, the Board may decide that an individual is not a suitable person to hold general registration as a Medical radiation practitioner because they have not practiced the profession for the length of time which the Board considers to be sufficient. More information of the requirements in relation to recency of practice can be found in the Board's recency of practice registration standard and the Board's recency of practice guidelines.

When a practitioner renews their registration, they must also make a declaration that they have met the recency of practice requirements set by the Board.

These are available on the Board's website at [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)

#### **19. Do I have to wait until 1 July 2012 before I can apply for registration?**

No. You can apply as soon as the application forms become available, which is expected to be in February 2012. It is a good idea to apply as early as possible, to give your application the best possible chance of being processed by 1 July 2012. The application forms will be available on the Board's website at [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)

#### **20. What are the qualifications required for registration?**

A list of approved programs leading to the qualifications necessary to register as a Medical radiation practitioner is available on the board's website at [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)

It is important to note that you must also meet all the board's requirements for suitability as a person. Suitability takes into consideration:

- any impairment that would detrimentally affect your capacity to practice
- criminal history
- any unfinalised proceedings
- English language competence
- any current suspension or cancellation in any jurisdiction
- your recency of practice
- whether you are a fit and proper person
- whether you are able to practice competently and safely and
- any other prescribed requirements.

New applicants for registration must provide sufficient evidence of their identity. Details are included in the application form.

### 21. What is an approved qualification accepted by the Board for registration?

The list of courses approved by the Board can be found on the Board's website at [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)

### 22. I am concerned about being able to meet one of the standards. Who can I talk to about this?

You can phone AHPRA and talk to one of the customer service team members. From within Australia call 1300 419 495 between 09:00am and 05:00pm Local Time, and from overseas phone +61 3 8708 9001 between 09:00am and 05:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Daylight Saving Time.

You can also speak to the staff at your professional association who may be available to assist and advise you.

### 23. What information does the on-line register contain?

When you search for a practitioner on the on-line register, this is what you will see:

#### Search Results

<b>Mr/Ms John/ Jane Citizen</b>			
<b>Name of profession</b>	Registration number:	DD0001234567	Endorsements: Yes/No
Category of registration	Status:	Registered	Conditions: Yes/No
<u>View details</u>	Principal place of practice:	Suburb State Postcode	Undertakings: Yes/No

		Notations: Yes/No
		Reprimands: Yes/No

When you click on '[view details](#)', this is what you will see:

**Registers of Practitioners**

**Health Practitioner: Ms/Mr Jane /John Citizen**

*Personal Details*

Sex:	
Spoken languages ( in addition to English):	
Qualifications:	

*Principal Place of Practice*

Suburb:	
State:	
Postcode:	
Country:	

*Registration Details*

Profession:	
Division(s):	
Registration type:	
Registration subtype:	
Registration status:	
Conditions, undertakings or reprimands:	
Registration number:	
Date of first registration:	
Registration expiry date:	

*Specialties:*

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**24. I have previously been disciplined in relation to my medical radiation practice. Will this stop me from getting registered?**

It depends on your particular situation and circumstances and what has happened since. Each case will be considered individually. The Board expects applicants to be candid about their past—a failure to report previous action taken will be considered serious, even if the underlying conduct was not so serious.

**25. I am going overseas but may return to practice in Australia. Should I register prior to my departure or on my return?**

You are not required to be registered if you are not working in Australia but if you want to register prior to departure, then you will be required to pay the registration fees and meet the Board's standards. These standards will also apply on renewal. If you want to apply for registration under the grandparenting provisions you must apply prior to 30 June 2015.

**26. I am registered to practice overseas. Will this be recognized automatically by the Board?**

No. You must meet the Australian requirements.

**27. Will registration mean I have access to Medicare?**

No not necessarily. The Board is not involved in determining who has access to Medicare; this is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. The Board is only concerned with issues to do with registration and accreditation.

**28. What is the difference between registration and licensing for MRPs?**

Registration with the Board recognises the qualifications necessary to practice in the medical radiation profession. The Board is also responsible for ensuring that practitioners practice safely and conduct themselves in a professional and safe manner.

Radiation licensing refers to the system of administration and control of radiation used by State and Territory governments. In those States and Territories that have registration schemes prior to 1 July 2012, the issuing of radiation licenses occurs after a practitioner has obtained registration.

**29. I am not working at present due to personal reasons. Do I have to complete the continuing professional development requirements?**

All registered medical radiation practitioners will be required to participate regularly in continuing professional development (CPD) activities and to maintain records of their CPD activities from 1 July 2012.

The Board requires all registered medical radiation practitioners to complete a minimum of 60 hours of self-directed CPD activities over a three year cycle, with a minimum of 10 hours in any one year; or comply with the requirements of a CPD program approved by the Medical radiation Practice Board.

The Board recognises that not all medical radiation practitioners have previously been subject to CPD requirements. When making an initial application for registration, applicants will be required to give an undertaking to meet the CPD requirements during the period of registration. When a person registers for the first time, or applies for registration after it has lapsed; the number of CPD hours to be completed will be calculated on a pro rata basis according to a formula published by the Board.

Further information on CPD requirements can be found on the Board's website at [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)

### 30. What are grandparenting arrangements?

Grandparenting arrangements are the special transitional arrangements that provide a possible pathway for registration for experienced practitioners who do not have the approved qualifications proposed by the national board.

These special grandparenting provisions for registration are set out under Section 303 of the National Law and are available until 30 June 2015. The grandparenting provisions end after 30 June 2015. Applicants will then be required to apply for general registration with the Board, hold the relevant qualification for registration and meet all of the Board's other requirements.

### 31. What does title protection mean?

There are specific titles listed in section 113 of the National Law which are referred to as 'protected titles'. This means that only those people who are registered in a particular profession can use the titles associated with that profession. Persons receiving health care are entitled to know whether they are dealing with a registered practitioner. The aim of registration is to protect the public by restricting the use of specified titles to practitioners who have been assessed as competent to deliver the specified services.

A person holding a particular title should be able to offer the services associated with that title. The National Law prohibits making claims to be qualified as a medical radiation practitioner, diagnostic radiographer, medical imaging technologist, radiographer, nuclear medicine scientist, nuclear medicine technologist or radiation therapist unless you are registered appropriately. The National Law also prohibits knowingly or recklessly holding yourself out as being registered under the National Law.

### 32. What does holding out mean?

Holding out means to present yourself in a way that suggests to others that you are something or someone that you are not.

A person who is not a registered health practitioner must **not**:

- use any of these titles: medical radiation practitioner, diagnostic radiographer, medical imaging technologist, radiographer, nuclear medicine scientist, nuclear medicine technologist or radiation therapist or
- claim to be registered under the National Law or 'hold themselves out' as being registered under the National Law.

### 33. What is non-practising registration?

Medical radiation practitioners with non-practising registration cannot undertake any clinical practice but they can use the protected title. They are not permitted to treat or refer, regardless of whether they are being remunerated.

There is a reduced fee for non-practising registration.

This type of registration may be suitable for practitioners who:

- have retired completely
- are temporarily not practising (for example on maternity or sick leave) or
- who are not practising in Australia but are practising overseas.

### 34. Who can certify true copies of documents?

A list of people that AHPRA will accept certified copies from can be found at:

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Certifying-Documents.aspx>

### 35. Where can I get a copy of the National Law?

Copies of the National Law can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications/Legislation.aspx>

### 36. What if I have a question that's not on this sheet?

You can phone AHPRA and talk to one of the customer service team members. From within Australia call 1300 419 495 between 09:00am and 05:00pm Local Time, and from overseas phone +61 3 8708 9001 between 09:00am and 05:00pm Australian Eastern Standard Daylight Saving Time.

### For more information

- The Board's registration standards, policies, guidelines and FAQs are published on its website [www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au)
- To lodge an online enquiry form follow the *Contact us* link from the AHPRA homepage [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200