

Frequently Asked Questions - Additional

How do I obtain an application form?

Application forms are now available on the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia's (the Board's) website.

What are the fees?

The application fee is \$300
The annual registration fee is \$325

Why are the fees so high?

Relative to the other professions, the fees are mid-range. It is important to remember that the scheme requires a Board to be self sustaining, and that there can be no cross subsidisation between Boards.

In determining fees the Board was conscious of its overall costs in relation to the scheme, it was mindful to ensure that it would be financially secure, but balanced this against the impact on practitioners.

Why is there an application fee?

There are significant resources involved in processing applications. The fee principally covers the costs of processing the application.

How much CPD do I do?

The MRP Board's Continuing Professional Development Registration Standard requires practitioners to complete 60 hours over a 3 year period. This is consistent with most other professions.

There is a further requirement that practitioners undertake CPD activity,

- i) a greater proportion of which must be substantive CPD activity
- ii) a lesser proportion of which may be general CPD activity
 - **Substantive CPD activities** are those activities that have significant intellectual or practical content primarily directed to a

practitioner's practise or expansion of practice.

- **General CPD activities** are those activities that have a sufficient nexus to learning in the healthcare environment.

If I work part time do I have to do all the CPD?

There are no exemptions for part-time workers.

The issue here is about protection of the public and the reasonable expectations of the public. The public expect that all practitioners have the same level of education and are up to date with practice requirements.

It is therefore irrelevant whether a person works full time or part time, as the expectation of the public is the same.

A different view of this same point is that a practitioner cannot be part time competent. They are competent, or they're not.

Updating ones skills and knowledge, and recognising the requirement to maintain current skills and knowledge will form a component of Competency Based Standards.

Do I need to do a particular CPD program?

No. The Board's CPD standard allows an individual to undertake self directed CPD or to be part of an approved program.

Do I need to be a member of the professional associations to be registered?

No. Membership to a professional or industry association is a separate matter and a personal choice.

If you are a member of a professional association in NSW do you automatically transfer into the new scheme or do you have to apply for registration?

You will have to apply for registration. Only those who are currently registered with their state or territory Board will automatically transition to the national scheme.

Do I need to be licensed as well as registered and does the registration board handle that as well?

Yes

There is a difference between radiation licensing and professional registration.

- States and Territories governments are responsible for the administration of radiation sources.
- Govt Departments issue a license under legislation that controls the use of X-ray equipment or radioactive materials.
- From 1 July 2012 medical radiation practitioners will need to be registered, and they will need to hold a radiation license.
- It is expected that these licenses will only be issued by the relevant authorities to MRPs who are registered by the Board

How much PII do I need?

The minimum required by the Board's PII Arrangements Standard is

- \$10 million for a single claim,
- with unlimited runoff

Do I have to pay for the police check?

No, a police check is included in the application fee.

What offences will stop me from working?

The law gives the National Board clear responsibilities to protect the public and to facilitate access to health services. It requires Boards to limit a practitioner's registration (through conditions etc) only as far as necessary to achieve this.

I have just started my PDY, do I have to complete it?

Yes. For those undertaking supervised practice in 2012, the Board has agreed it will recognise AIR, ANZSNM and MRTBQ supervised practice programs (see Communique)

How much supervised practice must I do?

In 2012 provisional and probationary practitioners must complete the requirements for supervised

practice as administered by AIR, ANZSNM and MRTBQ.

The Board is in the process of developing its Supervised Practice Registration Standard.

Can I do call after a few months?

Provisional and probationary practitioners must complete the requirements for supervised practice as administered by AIR, ANZSNM and MRTBQ.

The Board directs current provisional and probationary practitioners to comply with the requirements of their respective supervised practice program.

The Board is currently developing its Supervised Practice Registration Standard.

I am enrolled in a four year course will I have to do any PDY?

No. For 2012, the current requirements for supervised practice will remain until the Board has completed its review of supervised practice.

Do I have to register if I just do MRI or Ultrasound?

The National Scheme contains provisions that relate to protection of title. If a person wishes to practice as a medical radiation practitioner, they must be registered with the Board.

Additionally a person who is engaging in conduct which induces a belief that the person is registered when they are not may breach the National Law provisions that relate to "holding out" offences.

I haven't worked for 6 years and I want to be registered, what must I do?

Submit an application form. The Board will likely require you to undertake an assessment of skills and knowledge and determine what is necessary to return to practice.

Can I register for 3 or 6 months?

All medical radiation practitioners are required to be registered with the Board from 1 July 2012. If you wish to practice as a medical radiation practitioner you must be registered with the Board. The National Law provides penalties for those practicing without registration.

What do I do about my registration if I intend going overseas at the end of 2012?

You may apply for a non-practicing registration. You can also choose to cease your registration when going overseas, however you must then reapply for registration.

When is the latest that I can register?

You can apply anytime. However if you require registration from 1 July 2012 you must allow sufficient time for processing of your application.

Please apply before 30 May 2012. Otherwise you may risk serious disruption to your practice.

How long does it take to process my application?

An application will pass through the first four stages, as outlined below, but may pass up to eight stages

Stage 1: Application
Stage 2: Assessment
Stage 3: National Board Decision
Stage 4: Registration

For **INCOMPLETE** or **COMPLEX** applications the following may also be required

Stage 5: Submission
Stage 6: Submission Assessment - following Stage 5, the response from the applicant is considered and a final decision is made.
Stage 7: Tribunal – if an adverse decision is made which the applicants disagrees with
Stage 8: Withdrawn Incomplete

For assessment to occur, an application **MUST** be **COMPLETE**, however, as a general guide

- Up to 10 days for graduate applications
- Up to 10 days for provisional to general applications
- Up to 10 days for specialist applications (where general is already held)
- Up to 4-6 weeks for all other application types.

What happens if I lodge my application on 30 June?

The application will begin to be assessed as usual, however practitioners will be unable to practice until registration is approved. The Board strongly advises applying before 30 May 2012.

Can I work if I haven't registered by 1 July 2012?

Practitioners will be unable to practice until registration is approved. The Board strongly advises applying before 30 May 2012.

What do I do if my qualifications are not on the list?

The Board's list of Approved Qualifications covers the current Australian courses. The list of equivalent courses covers historic Australian courses that are no longer accredited. The Equivalent list also covers a number of accepted overseas courses.

For those qualifications that do not appear on either the Approved Qualifications or the Equivalent Qualifications the Board will make an assessment on a case-by-case basis.

Must I lodge my application form in person?

No. You can lodge by post or in person.

Can I register online?

No. The primary reason for this is that an application will usually require a practitioner to provide original or certified documentation supporting their application. Transmission of digital or soft copy versions of supporting documentation is not appropriate. Digital documents can be subject to manipulation, which reduces the integrity of the register.

It is expected that practitioners will be able to renew their registration online in November

If I am on maternity leave can I suspend my registration?

No. You can either let your registration lapse, or you can apply for non-practicing registration. If and when a person returns to practice, the Board's Recency of Practice Registration Standard may apply.