



## Media release

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18 June 2012

### New Limited registration standards for overseas trained physiotherapists published today

Three new physiotherapy Limited registration standards were published today by the Physiotherapy Board of Australia (the National Board); *Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice*, *Limited registration in public interest* and *Limited registration for teaching or research*. The standards are accompanied by a new *Supervision guideline* and special transitional arrangements that ensure that overseas trained physiotherapists are not disadvantaged by the new requirements.

The new registration standards were developed after extensive public consultation and were recently approved by Australian health ministers.

Under the new requirements, overseas trained physiotherapists applying to register for the first time are required to seek limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice. Overseas trained physiotherapists who currently hold *Limited registration in the public interest* need to change their registration category to limited registration for supervised practice at their next registration renewal.

Only applicants in unexpected circumstances, such as in a natural disaster, can access limited registration in public interest from now on, in line with the requirements of the other National Boards in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

#### **Requirements of the new *Limited registration for postgraduate training standard*:**

- applicants must be enrolled in an approved postgraduate physiotherapy program of study
- generally, no supervision requirements are required as applicants are being supervised by the program of study. However, applicants *may* be able to work outside the training program they are enrolled in, provided they meet all of the National Board's other registration standards and the work is related to their study, and
- on successful completion of a postgraduate training course, overseas trained practitioners must successfully complete the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) assessment process to be eligible to apply for general registration.

### Requirements of the new *Limited registration for supervised practice standard*:

- all applicants must hold a valid *APC Interim Certificate*, which can be attained from the APC after successfully completing the written component of its overseas trained physiotherapist assessment
  - once registered, physiotherapists who hold an *APC Interim Certificate* can only practice while the certificate is still valid.

The National Board has put in place special transitional arrangements that allow for the long lead times required for overseas trained physiotherapists to apply to complete the APC assessment process. The National Board will accept an **Initial Assessment Outcome Letter** from the APC in lieu of the *APC Interim Certificate* from applicants as evidence that they have begun the APC assessment process in cases where the applicant has not been able to meet the existing APC deadlines for this assessment. This is a new arrangement which is expected to run for 12 months to allow practitioners sufficient time to meet the new obligations under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

More information, including an FAQ is available on the National Board's website.

### For more information

- Go to the National Board's website: [www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au](http://www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au)
  - The new Limited registration standards are published under *Registration standards*
  - FAQs on the new standards are published under *Codes and guidelines*
  - The new *Supervision guidelines* are published under *Codes and guidelines*
  - Lodge an online enquiry form under *Contact us*
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200