

Authority

This registration standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 April 2012 pursuant to section 38 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory with approval taking effect from 25 May 2012.

Summary

Section 66 of the National Law (limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice) allows the Board to register individuals to undertake:

- postgraduate training
- a period of supervised practice, and
- an assessment or examination approved by the Board that will qualify the individual for general registration.

All practitioners granted limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice must comply with the requirements for registration set out in this registration standard, including:

- compliance with a supervised practice plan, **and/or**
- compliance with a postgraduate training plan
- authorising and facilitating the provision of regular reports from their supervisors to the Board regarding their safety and competence to practise where applicable
- satisfactory progress to completion of postgraduate training, **and/or**
- satisfactory performance within a supervised practice position where applicable.

The Standard sets out both the initial and ongoing requirements of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

Scope of registration standard

This registration standard applies to individuals applying for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice, under section 66 of the National Law, or for renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice under Part 7 Division 9 of the National Law.

Non-compliance with registration standards

Engaging in practice beyond the scope of practice permitted by the registration standard may amount to *unprofessional conduct* or *professional misconduct* under Part 8 of the National Law (or the relevant sections of the law pertaining to co-regulatory jurisdictions).

Should a breach of the registration standard occur the Board may commence action under Part 8 of the National Law to place conditions on a practitioner's registration so that the practitioner is not able to practise in Australia because the requirements for limited registration have not been met (being 'relevant action' within the meaning of section 178 of the National Law).

A breach of any of the requirements of this registration standard or any of the Board's registration standards may also result in immediate action being taken under section 156 of the National Law.

Purpose of registration and notation on the register of optometrists

Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice is granted for a particular purpose as listed in a Board approved postgraduate training plan and/or supervised practice plan.

The terms of the limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice will be notated on the public register of optometrists and any practice outside those terms **is not permitted**.

The type of notation that will appear on the register of optometrists will be, for example:

For limited registration for postgraduate training:

*Limited registration for postgraduate training is granted under section 66 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act as in force in each state and territory to <date> for the purpose of <completion of [name of postgraduate training]> by <[date of anticipated completion]> (and if applicable, <with practice at [place] under the supervision of [person]. >). Practice outside these parameters **is not permitted**.*

For limited registration for supervised practice:

Limited registration for supervised practice is granted under section 66 of the Health Practitioner Regulation

National Law Act as in force in each state and territory to <end date as listed in supervised practice plan> for the purpose of supervised practice <for the purpose of> <with practise at [place] under the supervision of [person]. Practice outside these parameters is not permitted.>

In addition to the requirements of this registration standard the Board may grant limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice, in accordance with section 83 of the National Law, subject to any conditions the Board considers necessary or desirable in the circumstances.

Requirements for application for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice

The following requirements apply to optometrists applying for either limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice:

- proof of identity as outlined in the application form approved by the Board for this registration standard
- evidence of English language skills that meets the Board's registration standard on English language skills
- evidence of having been awarded a primary degree in optometry that grants eligibility¹ to sit the Competence in Optometry Examination (COE) conducted by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ)
- evidence of successful completion of the written Competence in Optometry Examination (COE) conducted by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand
- evidence of work practice history that meets the Board's registration standard on recency of practice as evidenced in a CV in the standard format as outlined on the [AHPRA website](#)
- details of registration history including certificates of good standing/registration status from each registration authority with which the applicant has been registered in the previous five years (supplied directly to the Board from the relevant registration authority), and
- satisfactory completion of a criminal history check undertaken by the Board that meets the Board's criminal history registration standard.

Additional requirements for applicants completing postgraduate training

The following requirements apply to those optometrists applying for limited registration for postgraduate training:

- a postgraduate training plan that lists the purpose, anticipated duration, location, content and structure of training and the anticipated date of completion
- evidence of enrolment or an offer of acceptance from the education provider conducting the relevant program of study, and
- any other information the Board requires under section 80 of the National Law to determine whether the applicant is a suitable person to hold limited registration.

Additional requirements for applicants undertaking supervised practice

The following requirements apply to those optometrists applying for limited registration for supervised practice:

- a supervised practice plan, prepared in accordance with any supervision guidelines issued from time to time by the Board
- sponsoring employer's written confirmation of offer of employment
- statement from the sponsoring employer including:
 - > employer contact details
 - > position description including key selection criteria addressing clinical responsibilities and qualifications and experience required
- name, qualifications and contact details of the proposed clinical supervisor/s
- written confirmation from the proposed supervisor that he or she agrees to provide supervision and to comply with supervision obligations as required by the Board, and
- any other information the Board requires under section 80 of the National Law to determine whether the applicant is a suitable person to hold limited registration.

Optometrists wishing to undertake supervised practice whilst completing his or her postgraduate study need to meet these requirements.

1 Refer to the [examination section](#) of the OCANZ website

Requirements on practitioners granted limited registration

This registration standard establishes the requirements that apply to practitioners who are granted limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

The registrant is required to:

- comply with the postgraduate training plan approved by the Board if applicable
- comply with the supervised practice plan approved by the Board if applicable and
- restrict his or her clinical practice to that listed within an approved supervised practice plan.

Length of registration period

Limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice is inextricably linked to the employment of the optometrist in a supervised practice position and/or active participation and enrolment in the program of study listed in the approved postgraduate training plan.

In accordance with section 72 of the National Law the Board will publish the *limited registration period* on its website. Where the approved employment position or active participation and enrolment ceases or is terminated the limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice will end after 30 days of the cessation of the purpose for which limited registration was granted (i.e. employment, participation in postgraduate training program or supervised practice program).

Ability to renew limited registration

Limited registration, as set out by section 72 of the National Law must be renewed annually and can be renewed a maximum of three (3) times.

After this time a new application for limited registration may be made and will need to meet the requirements of this Registration Standard.

Requirements for renewal of limited registration

Renewal of limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice will be subject to the practitioner meeting the following requirements:

- completion of an annual renewal form in accordance with section 107 of the National Law including an annual statement in accordance with section 109

- demonstrated compliance with the requirements on registration as listed in the postgraduate training plan and/or supervised practice plan
- satisfactory performance in the supervised practice position if applicable and
- any additional investigation, information, examination or assessment required by the Board in accordance with section 110 of the National Law.

The Board may refuse to renew the practitioner's registration if:

- the practitioner's employment ceases or is terminated
- the practitioner fails to comply with an approved supervised practice plan
- the practitioner fails to comply with an approved postgraduate training plan and/or
- during assessment or supervision, deficiencies are identified in the practitioner's practice that the Board considers are significant.

Applications for variation to an approved plan

An optometrist holding limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice needs to notify the Board of any variation to a Board approved postgraduate training plan or supervised practice plan.

When making an application for a variation to a plan, the Board requires details of the change in writing including any supporting documentation.

The Board will consider the application for variation.

Minor changes will require an amendment to the approved postgraduate training plan or supervised practice plan.

If the change is significantly different from the content of the approved plan listed in the approved postgraduate training plan or supervised practice plan, a new application for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice may be required.

Review

This standard will commence on 4 June 2012.

The Board will review this standard at least every three years.