

Media release

5 October 2012

Online applications for registration now open for final year students

Students of optometry who will graduate soon can go online now to apply for registration as a health practitioner.

An online graduate registration service for final year students was launched by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) in May 2011.

The service enables students to apply for registration early before completing their course and aims to smooth the path from study to work in five simple steps.

Online applications for registration are now open. All applications require students to return some supporting documents to AHPRA by mail.

Optometry Board of Australia Chair Colin Waldron said graduates of approved programs of study must make an online application for general registration.

For the first time, graduates from all approved programs of study (except those graduating in 2012 from QUT) will be able to apply for general registration and endorsement for scheduled medicines in one online application. There is no endorsement fee payable as the application is made at the same time.

Mr Waldron said a graduate of an approved program of study must also meet the National Board's registration requirements to become a registered health practitioner.

New graduate registration standards relate to:

- criminal history,
- English language skills, and
- professional indemnity insurance.

'Graduates need to be a registered health practitioner before they can start work and are urged to go online and apply for registration four to six weeks before completing their course,' Mr Waldron said.

There are five simple steps to graduate registration:

1. Students apply for registration 4 to 6 weeks before completing their course at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx>
2. Applicants fill out an online application (if eligible) or download an application form. All applications require some documents to be sent to AHPRA by mail.

3. Education providers advise AHPRA when applicants are eligible to graduate
4. AHPRA finalises assessment, confirms registration, publishes new graduates' names on the Register of Practitioners and sends out registration certificates
5. New graduates registered with their profession's National Board are eligible to start working as soon as their name is published on the Register of Practitioners

For more information

- Go to the Graduate Applications Website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx> for FAQs and links to more information
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200