

## Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

## Summary

An applicant for registration or endorsement or renewal of registration or endorsement must demonstrate satisfactory evidence of recent practice as a registered psychologist within the five years prior to the date of application for registration or endorsement, or renewal of registration or endorsement.

In order to practise as a psychologist in Australia, an individual must be registered by the Board. On this basis, the Board will not accept:

- a). unregistered practice involving activities of a psychological nature; or
- b). practice involving activities of a nonpsychological nature despite these being performed by a registered psychologist, as satisfactory evidence of recent professional practice.

## Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for registration and registered psychologists. It does not apply to applicants applying for or renewing nonpractising registration or student registration

This standard applies to all applicants equally, whether they practise full or part-time or whether work is remunerated or not. The standard commences immediately after an individual qualifies for registration. For example, an individual is qualified for general registration immediately upon successful completion of a Board-approved minimum six-year sequence of study or equivalent. This standard also applies to applicants for provisional registration, or renewal of provisional registration, in certain circumstances. See 'Requirements' section for details.

## Requirements

1. An individual must, at the time the application is made, be able to demonstrate that he or she has practised unconditionally as a registered psychologist within the previous five years. A person who is eligible for registration and applies for registration within five years of successfully completing a Board-approved sequence of study required for registration is exempt from this standard.
2. An applicant who has not practised as a registered psychologist for five years or more is not automatically eligible for registration or renewal of registration, but may be required to undertake remedial action in order to become eligible for registration or renewal of registration. If the Board grants or renews registration under these circumstances, it may impose a condition on registration that the applicant must undertake remedial action within a specified period.
3. Where questions arise as to the quantity or type of practice, and whether it constitutes 'psychology practice' for the purposes of this standard, the Board will determine such matters on a case-by-case basis.
4. If a previously registered provisional psychologist who was participating in an internship program applies for provisional registration five years or more since expiry of registration, any previous completed components of the internship program will not be accepted by the Board. In this situation, the applicant for registration will be required to recommence the internship program.
5. If a provisional psychologist, on application for renewal of registration has a leave of absence of five or more years within their internship program, any previous completed components of the internship program will not be accepted by the Board and the applicant for renewal of registration will be required to recommence the internship program.

## Inability to comply with this standard

1. In the event that an applicant for registration or renewal of registration is unable to demonstrate evidence of recent practice in accordance with this standard, the Board may:
  - a) refuse registration or endorsement or renewal of registration or endorsement; or
  - b) grant or renew registration, but impose a condition on registration or endorsement that the applicant must undertake a period of supervised practice under the supervision of a supervisor approved by the Board; and/or
  - c) require the applicant to undergo a performance assessment; and/or
  - d) require the applicant to successfully complete further education aimed at remedying shortfalls in their professional knowledge or skills resulting from their recent lack of practice; and/or
  - e) require the applicant to successfully complete an examination.



## Definitions

**Practice** means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a psychologist in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct nonclinical 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.

**Recency of practice** means that a practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in, the profession since qualifying or obtaining registration.

## Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.

