

Authority

This registration standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 April 2012 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory with approval taking effect from 18 June 2012.

Summary

Section 68 of the National Law (on limited registration in public interest) allows the Board to register physiotherapists to fill positions in the public interest. The registration standard sets out the requirements, under section 68 of the National Law, for the Board to register physiotherapists with overseas qualifications who are not qualified for general registration in Australia.

The registration standard sets out both the initial and ongoing requirements of limited registration in the public interest.

The Board will determine whether it is in the public interest to register a physiotherapist but, in general, will only register a physiotherapist for a limited time and/or a limited scope. An example of when it might be in the public interest to register a physiotherapist includes an unexpected situation when a natural disaster has occurred or when a physiotherapist wishes to perform a demonstration or presentation which involves practice on members of the public, including restricted acts such as manipulation of the cervical spine, or to undertake a course that involves restricted practices such as manipulation of the cervical spine. Limited registration in the public interest is not a suitable type of registration for physiotherapists who are working towards gaining general registration, nor is it generally applicable for workforce shortage. These physiotherapists should apply for limited registration for postgraduate training or supervised practice.

Usually, the Board will grant limited registration in the public interest for one month. While the Board may grant limited registration in the public interest for a period of up to 12 months, it would be usual that the period of registration is limited for the duration of the public interest circumstances.

The Board will include the requirements of limited registration on the national register pursuant to section 225(p) of the National Law.

Scope of application

This registration standard applies to individuals applying for limited registration in the public interest, under section 68 of the National Law, or for renewal of limited registration in the public interest, under section 107 of the National Law.

Requirements

Applicants must comply with the requirements of section 65 of the National Law which includes meeting the Board's registration standards on English language skills, professional indemnity insurance, criminal history, recency of practice and continuing professional development. These registration standards are available on the Board's website at www.physiotherapyboard.gov.au under *Registration standards*.

Limited registration in the public interest is inextricably linked to the engagement of the individual in an approved public interest position. When the approved public interest position ceases or is terminated, the limited registration in the public interest will end on the day of cessation or termination or at the end of the last day of the period of registration, whichever is sooner.

Purpose of registration and notation on the register of physiotherapists

Individuals granted limited registration in the public interest should note that the registration is granted for the particular purpose which is to provide short-term physiotherapy services in a specific position that has been approved by the Board as being in the public interest. The terms of the limited registration in the public interest will be notated on the register of physiotherapists and any practice outside those terms **is not permitted**.

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

Limited registration in the public interest is granted under section 68 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act as in force in each state and territory from <date> to <date> for the purpose of providing physiotherapy services at <practice>. Practice outside these parameters is not permitted.

In addition to the requirements of this registration standard the Board may grant limited registration in the public interest, in accordance with section 83 of the National Law,

subject to any conditions the Board considers necessary or desirable in the circumstances.

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 standards occur (such as an individual continues to practise after the cessation of the public interest position), the Board may commence action under Part 8 of the National Law to place conditions on the limited registrant's registration such that they are not able to practise as a health practitioner as 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 satisfy the requirements of immediate action under section 156 of the National Law.

Renewal

Given the short-term nature of limited registration in the public interest, it is unlikely that renewal of registration will be necessary.

Definitions

National Law means the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

Supervision means the monitoring of and reporting on the performance of a physiotherapist by a physiotherapist with general registration in accordance with the Board's *Supervision guidelines for physiotherapy*.

References

Supervision guidelines for physiotherapy, Physiotherapy Board of Australia

Review

Date of issue: 18 June 2012

Date of review: This standard will be reviewed at least every three years

Last reviewed: