



## UPDATE Fact Sheet: Dental Practitioner New Graduate Registration

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Australia's new national registration and accreditation scheme began on 1 July 2010. From this date, a new National Law (the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*) came into effect and 10 health professions will be regulated by a consistent piece of legislation. The National Law established the Dental Board of Australia to oversee the regulation of dental practitioner in Australia.

From **1 July 2010**, the national scheme and the National Law also affect new dental practitioner graduates of accredited dental practitioner courses who want to apply for registration as a dental practitioner. The National Law and the Dental Board have established the requirements for registration as a dental practitioner.

The Dental Board is supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to carry out its function of registering dental practitioners.

### Getting registered

There are a number of requirements for new graduates applying for general registration which are:

- **Application form for General Registration** - The completion of an application form for General Registration which can be located on the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) website ([www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au)).
- **Proof of Identity** - New applicants for registration must provide sufficient evidence of their identity. To see the requirements relating to proof of identity please see the factsheet on the Board's website.
- **Criminal History Check** - A criminal history check will be conducted by AHPRA. The Board must consider specific factors are considered to determine whether the criminal history of an applicant is relevant to the practice of the dental profession. The Criminal History Registration Standard on the Board's website provides detail of the specific factors for consideration.
- **English Language requirements** - All applicants must demonstrate English language skills. The Registration Standard for English language skills can be found on the Board's website. The requirements include:

- Any applicant who can provide verification that their secondary **and** tertiary qualifications were taught and assessed in English from any of the following countries Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, UK, USA are exempt from this requirement.
- Applicants who are not eligible for the above exemption must demonstrate English language skills at IELTS academic level 7 or OET with grades of A or B. These test results need to be obtained within two years prior.

**To note** - The Board has published an additional *Student Update: English language* on the website ([www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au)) for dental practitioner students graduating this year which states the Board will accept as current an OET or IELTS test result that is more than two years old, provided it is accompanied by proof that the candidate has since been continuously enrolled in a Board approved program of study. The test results need to be provided directly to AHPRA from the testing authority.

In addition, in relation to *Exemptions*, the Board accepts that students who completed the last two years of their secondary education in English meet the requirement of having 'undertaken and completed secondary education' taught and assessed in English in one of the following countries where English is the native or first language: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America.

- **Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII)** - All applicants require appropriate Personal Indemnity Insurance (PII). For full information please refer to the PII Registration Standard on the Board's website. The requirements include:
  - Private practice – Civil liability insurance to cover all aspects of practice, in each context and location of practice, whether in full or part time, paid or unpaid employment (plus retroactivity cover and 'run-off')
  - Employed practitioners – must be either covered by the employer's insurance or maintain their own PII. Cover provided to employees must satisfy the standard minimum requirements of the Registration Standard.

## Process for general registration

AHPRA has established a specific process for the general registration of new graduates. Please regularly refer to the Board's website for information and updates provided by the Board in relation to this process. Please see the following information sheet in relation to the processes for new graduates - *Graduate Registration Fact Sheet* on the Boards website ([www.dentalboard.gov.au](http://www.dentalboard.gov.au)).