

## Briefing session – request for quote on outcome based assessment model for overseas trained dental specialists

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July 2016

### Questions and answers

#### Introduction

Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), any applicant for specialist registration must be eligible by meeting the requirements of the Board's *Specialist registration standard* and by being qualified for registration in the specialty.

Under the National Law, there are four pathways for an applicant to be qualified for specialist registration:

1. the applicant holds a qualification approved by the Board
2. the applicant holds a qualification substantially equivalent to a Board approved qualification
3. the applicant holds a relevant qualification **and** successfully completes an examination or other assessment required by the Board for the purpose of registration in the specialty, or
4. the applicant holds a qualification, that under the National Law or a corresponding prior Act qualified the applicant for specialist registration and the applicant was previously registered.

The purpose of this request for quote is to explore the development of an examination/assessment of the competencies of any applicant for specialist registration as part of the above 3<sup>rd</sup> pathway (examination/assessment pathway).

As part of the briefing session, an overview of the current development of the outcome based assessment model by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) was provided.

#### Questions and answers

##### **How many assessments are anticipated to be done each year under the new examination/assessment pathway?**

At this point in time, it is difficult to anticipate the number of assessments per year under this new pathway. The number of assessment for substantially equivalent qualification currently undertaken by the Board does not necessarily provide an accurate indication as to the number of assessments that would be carried out under the new pathway. There might be more applications under the new pathway.

##### **Are the competencies of applicants assessed?**

Under the current equivalence assessment pathway, only the qualification/s of an applicant is/are being assessed.

The new examination/assessment pathway would assess whether the qualification/s of an applicant is/are relevant to the specialty he/she is applying for **and** his/her competencies would be assessed via an examination/assessment. It is expected that the entry level competencies for specialties published by the Board would be used to develop any type of assessment/examination.

**Can the research material used by the NMBA be made available to bidders?**

The research material used by the NMBA (and owned by AHPRA) will be provided to the successful bidder – noting that it does not only refer to nursing and midwifery but also to other health professions.

**If this new pathway is in place, will the equivalence assessment pathway still be open? And if so, can an applicant choose a preferred pathway?**

At this point in time, further information on the development of the examination/assessment pathway is required prior to any decision regarding the equivalence assessment pathway.

Should the equivalence assessment pathway remain, it is anticipated that an applicant would be able to choose a pathway. It is noted that, under the new pathway, the applicant would still have his/her qualification assessed to determine whether it is 'relevant' to the specialty.

**Has workplace based assessment been considered by the NMBA as part of its outcome based assessment model?**

The research literature considered workplace based assessment, however, this was not recommended due to resource and time constraints. The issues of consistency and the difficulties in finding supervisors have also been raised.

It was noted that the successful bidder would be expected to explore workplace based assessment specifically for the dental profession.

**Could the Board decide to not develop this new pathway?**

Yes. The Board is expecting the successful bidder to explore whether this pathway would be feasible or not.

**How much will it approximately cost to develop the new pathway?**

At this point in time, the budget is yet to be confirmed.

**Are partnerships between different bodies possible?**

Yes.