

PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICY AND PROTOCOLS FOR LIMITED REGISTRATION AS A PHYSIOTHERAPIST IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

POLICY

The Physiotherapy Practice Act 2005 provides that, subject to certain exceptions persons who are not registered under that Act, must not practise physiotherapy for fee or reward or use prescribed equipment in the provision of services that constitute physiotherapy in South Australia unless they are registered as physiotherapists under that Act.

The Act permits the Board to grant Limited Registration to persons to teach or undertake research or study in South Australia. The Act also permits the Board to grant Limited Registration where in the Board's opinion it is in the public interest to do so.

The Physiotherapy Board of South Australia, along with other Physiotherapists Boards in Australian states and territories, supports the Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) Model for Limited Registration within Australia (adopted by ACOPRA Council 29 March 2003) and implements this where it is appropriate to do so under the Physiotherapy Practice Act 2005

Limited Registration may be granted by the Board to overseas qualified physiotherapists in the following circumstances, provided certain conditions are met.

- Overseas qualified physiotherapists undertaking postgraduate coursework or research degree programs conducted by educational institutions within South Australia involving the examination or management or provision of advice to patients. Limited Registration for these individuals will only apply for work undertaken as a component of study. An extension to Limited Registration which allows work (under the supervision of a physiotherapist who is registered in South Australia) to be undertaken in the community during the period of enrolment as a post graduate student, may be granted if the individual's qualifications and training obtained since 2001 can be demonstrated to meet the requirements under the APC Model for Limited Registration
- Overseas qualified physiotherapists who have successfully completed the IMMS, ICPY, IMMIP or IMPX postgraduate coursework program at the University of South Australia may be granted a further period of Limited Registration of up to 12 months to enable the consolidation of knowledge and skills acquired in the degree program, through work undertaken in South Australia, if their qualifications and training obtained since 2001 can be demonstrated to meet the requirements under the APC Model for Limited Registration. This work must be undertaken under the supervision of a physiotherapist who is registered in South Australia. Limited registration, as provided under this circumstance, will not be allowed once the person commences employment as a physiotherapist outside the state of South Australia.
- Overseas qualified physiotherapists holding a Working Holiday Visa (WHV) from the United Kingdom, Ireland or Canada. Limited Registration is granted for the twelve month duration of the WHV under the visa conditions or as may be approved by the Federal Government from time to time.
- Overseas qualified physiotherapists undertaking an approved employment exchange experience of up to 12 months with an approved South Australian employer, for example a public hospital or other health care facility approved by the Board.
- Overseas qualified physiotherapists wishing to work in South Australia for a maximum of 12 months who hold a qualification providing eligibility for unconditional registration, as listed in the Regulations of the Physiotherapists Act 1991, prior to 2001.

- Overseas qualified physiotherapists wishing to work in South Australia for a maximum of 12 months whose qualifications and training obtained since 2001 can be demonstrated to meet the requirements under the APC Model for Limited Registration within Australia.
- Physiotherapists who have been awarded the Australian Physiotherapy Council Assessment Process (APC AP) Interim Certificate.

PROTOCOLS

The following protocols are to be observed:-

1. Limited Registration holders are permitted to practise only under the supervision of a physiotherapist who is registered in South Australia.
2. The practice facility where the employment supervision is to be undertaken and the supervising physiotherapist must be approved by the Board **before** any final arrangement can be entered into by the Limited Registration holder with the employer, and employment commenced.
3. The supervising physiotherapist must sign a Letter of Undertaking with the Physiotherapy Board indicating his/her willingness to undertake the supervision of the Limited Registration holder in accordance with the Board's 'Statement on Clinical Supervision' (Appendix 1).
4. The supervising physiotherapist must advise the Board in writing two weeks after commencement of employment of a physiotherapist with Limited Registration of the process of
 - The assessment of supervision requirements and
 - The resulting supervision arrangements.
5. Limited registration holders are not permitted to undertake the practice of acupuncture, even under supervision.
6. Where the period of Limited Registration under supervision extends beyond a period of 6 months (from the date of granting Limited Registration), the Limited Registrant's must provide to the Board (for approval) further report/s regarding supervision arrangements. Such report/s must be provided within fourteen days of the 6 month anniversary of Limited Registration. Non receipt of such a report will result in termination of Limited Registration.
7. Limited Registration Holders are not permitted to provide supervision to either registered physiotherapy students, or other holders of Limited Registration.

Application for Limited Registration must be made to the Physiotherapy Board on the requisite form. The application form must be accompanied by any additional evidence which the Board may require and by the fee for application for Limited Registration (currently A\$295.00). Renewal of registration beyond one year must be approved by the Board and application made on the requisite form. The completed form must be returned to the Board accompanied by the renewal fee (currently A\$195.00).

LIMITED REGISTRATION CATEGORIES AND CONDITIONS

1. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS UNDERTAKING POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK OR RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMS INVOLVING THE EXAMINATION OR MANAGEMENT OR PROVISION OF ADVICE TO PATIENTS

Where applicants for Limited Registration have been accepted into a postgraduate degree program which involves examination or treatment or provision of advice to patients or volunteers as part of coursework requirements or research, the Physiotherapy Board will grant Limited Registration to permit the person to undertake the program of study.

Limited Registration is provided for one year. Formal evidence of satisfactory progression through a program of study of greater than one year in duration will normally result in the Board granting renewal of the Limited Registration for successive periods of one year, or for the duration of the program if less than a year. Such formal evidence must be provided to the Board by the University in question.

Application for Limited Registration must be made to the Physiotherapy Board on the requisite **form within two weeks the date of commencement of the program at the University of South Australia**. The application form must be accompanied by any additional evidence which the Board may require and by the fee for application for Limited Registration. Renewal of registration beyond one year must be approved by the Board and application made on the requisite form. The completed form must be returned to the Board accompanied by the renewal fee.

Overseas students undertaking university study in Australia are permitted to undertake part time work concurrently with their study. Overseas trained physiotherapists undertaking a postgraduate degree program who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity cannot do so until the Board protocols have been met, as listed earlier in this document. *They must also satisfy the requirements of Section 5 following in this document.*

2. FURTHER PERIOD OF LIMITED REGISTRATION FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK OR RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM

Physiotherapists who have successfully completed a postgraduate coursework or research degree program may be granted an end-on period of Limited Registration of up to 12 months to facilitate the consolidation of knowledge and skills acquired in the program. The Board will grant this further period only upon receipt of formal evidence of successful completion. Application for this end-on period of Limited Registration must be lodged within three months of successful completion. The 12 month period will commence at the time of approving the Limited Registration application for end-on registration.

The Board's protocols as listed earlier in this document, must be met.

In the event that an overseas trained physiotherapist granted a further period of Limited Registration for 12 months following successful completion of postgraduate study, wishes to undertake the Australian Physiotherapy Council Assessment Process (APCAP) to gain unconditional registration in Australia, the following should be noted. Any extension to the Limited Registration, over and above this 12 month period, will only be granted if the applicant firstly, has evidence from APC that he/she is eligible to enter the APC Assessment Process. Secondly, has further evidence of enrolment to undertake the professional examinations on a date which has been set. Further extension to the period of Limited Registration will only be granted on successful completion of the APC Assessment Process and the awarding of the APC Interim Certificate. Such period will be for the time specified on the Interim Certificate to allow the candidate to complete the APC clinical examination component.

If Limited Registration holders allow their Limited Registration to expire after either 3 months post completion of the postgraduate degree program or after completion of the end-on 12 month period granted to facilitate the consolidation of knowledge and skills, they will be required to provide the Board with evidence that they have obtained the APC Interim Certificate before Limited Registration can again be obtained.

3. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS HOLDING A WORKING HOLIDAY VISA FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, IRELAND OR CANADA

Physiotherapists from specified countries with whom Australia has Working Holiday Visa (WHV) arrangements may be granted Limited Registration to work in South Australia for the period of their WHV. This is subject to a maximum of six months with any one employer under the supervision of a South Australian registered physiotherapist. Application for Limited Registration can be made upon arrival in Australia.

The Board will require documentation to accompany the application for Limited Registration as outlined in Appendix 2.

Upon receipt of the application and required documentation, Provisional Limited Registration will be granted. This Provisional Limited Registration will be confirmed when the Board's protocols have been met (as listed earlier in this document).

4. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS UNDERTAKING AN APPROVED EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

Limited Registration may be granted for up to 12 months to a suitably qualified overseas physiotherapist undertaking an approved employment exchange with a South Australian employer (eg. public hospital and other approved health care body). The Board will require documentation to accompany the application for Limited Registration as outlined in Appendix 2. Applications must be made prior to commencing employment to ensure that all requirements for Limited Registration are likely to be met. Approval by the Board will be contingent upon the Board's protocols being met (as listed earlier in this document).

5. SUITABLY QUALIFIED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS WISHING TO WORK IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS

5.1 Overseas trained physiotherapists who hold a qualification which provided eligibility for unconditional registration prior to 2001, as listed in the Regulations of the Physiotherapists Act 1991

Limited Registration may be granted for a maximum period of 12 months. The Board will require documentation to accompany the application for Limited Registration as outlined in Appendix 2. Applications should be made prior to commencing employment to ensure that all requirements for Limited Registration are likely to be met. The granting of Limited Registration will also be contingent upon the Board's protocols being met (as listed earlier in this document).

5.2 Overseas qualified physiotherapists whose qualifications and training obtained since 2001 can be demonstrated to meet Criterion 1 under the APC 12 Month Limited Registration Model

Criterion 1 of the APC 12 Month Limited Registration Model states *“The course content of the physiotherapy qualification should include clinical components of cardiorespiratory, musculoskeletal and neurological physiotherapy and of electrotherapy similar in an Australian qualification.”*

Applicants seeking Limited Registration will be required to provide the Board with a detailed copy of their course curriculum. More detail regarding the documentation required is provided in Appendix 3. **The Board charges a fee of A\$150.00 for evaluation of the documentation submitted.**

Upon the establishment of the equivalence of the program of study, the granting of Limited Registration by the Board will be contingent upon the Board's protocols being met (as listed earlier in this document).

6. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE APCAP INTERIM CERTIFICATE

Overseas qualified physiotherapists who have passed the APC Assessment Process are awarded the APCAP Interim Certificate. This Interim Certificate is awarded for a specified period in order to allow the candidate to gain clinical experience under supervision in the Australian context and to undertake the APC clinical examinations. The Board will grant Limited Registration to holders of the APCAP Interim Certificate. Such provision will be contingent upon the Board's protocols being met (as listed earlier in this document).

The APCAP Final Certificate is awarded following successful completion of APC clinical examinations. The APCAP Final Certificate provides eligibility for unconditional registration with the Board.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Statement on Clinical Supervision

Appendix 2: Documentation required by the Board for Limited Registration

Appendix 3: Additional Documentation required by the Board for Criterion 1 Evaluation

**PHYSIOTHERAPY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR LIMITED REGISTRATION
AS A PHYSIOTHERAPIST IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

APPENDIX 1: STATEMENT ON CLINICAL SUPERVISION

The following 'Statement on Clinical Supervision' has been developed so that all supervising physiotherapists are aware of their obligations when employing physiotherapists with Limited Registration. Clinical supervision is a personal undertaking by the supervising physiotherapist. It is not an undertaking by the physiotherapy practice or employer.

The supervising physiotherapist must sign a 'Letter of Undertaking' with the Physiotherapy Board stating his/her willingness to supervise as outlined in the Board's 'Statement on Clinical Supervision'.

The supervising physiotherapist should note too, that the Board requires advice in writing, two weeks after commencement of employment of a physiotherapist with Limited Registration of the process of assessment of supervision requirements and of the resulting supervision arrangements.

Statement on Clinical Supervision

Clinical supervision is a process that ensures quality of patient care. Appropriate supervision enables a physiotherapist to make the best of his or her skills and improve his or her abilities. The nature and extent of supervision is dependent on the individual physiotherapist's knowledge and experience.

The amount of input required by a supervisor of a physiotherapist with Limited Registration must be determined by the supervisor as the processes to determine eligibility for full registration and therefore achievement of a base level of competence have yet to be undertaken. The supervisor should undertake a period of assessment through strategies such as observation or mock exams and then consult with the individual about the ongoing supervision arrangements required to ensure adequate patient care. **The absolute minimum expectation of adequate supervision is a weekly meeting with access to a supervisor's input during working hours with the supervisor in such geographical proximity as to provide such input. (Geographical proximity is deemed to be the ability to attend the work site at no more than 3 hours notice, if needed.) A greater level of supervision may well be required due to individual differences in skill level.**

Employing a physiotherapist with Limited Registration as a locum in place of a sole practising physiotherapist would not allow for the appropriate level of access to supervision.

Supervisors are required to advise the Physiotherapy Board of South Australia in writing, two weeks after commencement of employment of a physiotherapist with Limited Registration, of the process of assessment and the resulting supervision arrangements.

APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY THE BOARD FOR LIMITED REGISTRATION

The Board requires the following documentation to accompany the application for Limited Registration.

- Evidence of physiotherapy degree qualification*
- Current Registration/Licensing in..... (name of county where registered/licensed)
 - If you hold registration in another country it is necessary for you to arrange for an original Certificate of Good Standing to be forwarded directly to the Board by the registering authority in that Country. Certificates of Good Standing must be dated within three months of the date of the application.
- ID section of passport*
- Work visa or Working Holiday Visa, showing date of first entry into Australia and confirming permission to work in Australia*
- Evidence of a comprehensive knowledge and satisfactory level of skill in English must be provided if the applicant is from a country where English is not the first language (An applicant must meet the APC requirements here.)*
- Name of hospital/physiotherapy practice/other facility where employment has been offered in South Australia
- Letter from South Australian registered physiotherapist confirming employment under their supervision and signed "Letter of Undertaking".

* Certified copies required

APPENDIX 3: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY THE BOARD FOR CRITERION 1 EVALUATION

Criterion 1 of the APC 12 Month Limited Registration Model states:

The course content of the physiotherapy qualification should include theoretical and clinical components of cardiorespiratory, musculoskeletal and neurological physiotherapy and of electrotherapy similar in duration to an Australian qualification.

The following information is required in relation to the qualification in physiotherapy gained by the overseas qualified physiotherapist seeking Limited Registration.

The name of the institution which awarded the qualification, the name of the award, the dates of study at the institution and the date of conferment of the qualification.

A notarised copy of the qualification.

Detailed course curriculum including

- a description of each subject studied
- breakdown of hours of theory and practical training in each subject
- outline of the period of supervised clinical practice or internship including dates of each placement, name of the facility and types of conditions treated during each placement (eg: orthopaedic outpatients, cardiorespiratory inpatients, neurological rehabilitation, general medical, etc).
- Life Membership of Indian Association of Physiotherapists (where applicable)
- Evidence of satisfactory and valid result of English Language Testing Report.
(Applicants who provide evidence that their initial physiotherapy professional education was in the English language medium in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America satisfy the English Language requirement)

All documentation provided must be certified* and must be in English

*A **certified** copy is a photocopy, certified to be a true copy of the original document. The certification should be made by a Justice of the Peace, Notary, a Commissioner for taking Declarations, a Commissioner for Oaths or a person holding a position of similar responsibility. The witness **must** state on the copy that it is a true copy of the original and must include their full name and address and the qualification that authorises them to be a witness.