

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

POLICY

The Physiotherapists Act 1991 provides that subject to certain exceptions persons who are not registered under that Act must not practice 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.

The Physiotherapists Board of South Australia, along with other Physiotherapists Boards in Australian states and territories, supports the Australian Council of Physiotherapy Regulating Authorities (ACOPRA) Twelve Month Limited Registration Policy and implements this where it is appropriate to do so under the Physiotherapists Act 1991.

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

- Physiotherapists undertaking postgraduate coursework or research degree programs involving the examination or management or provision of advice to patients.
- Physiotherapists who have successfully completed a postgraduate coursework or research degree program as above, may be granted an end-on period Limited Registration of up to 12 months to enable the consolidation of knowledge and skills acquired in the degree program
- Physiotherapists holding a Working Holiday Visa from the United Kingdom, Ireland or Canada. Limited Registration is granted for the six month duration of the WHV under the visa conditions
- 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
- 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
- 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 ACOPRA 12 Month Limited Registration Policy
- Physiotherapists who have been awarded the Australian Examining Committee for Overseas Physiotherapists (AECOP) Interim Certificate.

PROTOCOLS

The following protocols are to be observed:-

1. Limited Registration holders are permitted to practice only under the supervision of a registered physiotherapist.
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 Physiotherapists 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, within two weeks of commencement of employment of a physiotherapist with Limited Registration of the process of
 - 4.1 The assessment of supervision requirements and
 - 4.2 The resulting supervision arrangements.

Application for Limited Registration must be made to the Physiotherapists 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\$150.00). 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\$110.00).

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 Physiotherapists 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 Physiotherapists Board on the requisite **form within one month of 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.

2. END-ON 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.

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

In the event that an overseas trained physiotherapist granted end-on Limited Registration for 12 months following successful completion of postgraduate study, wishes to undertake the AECOP process 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 AECOP that he/she is eligible to enter the AECOP process and secondly, has 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 awarded on successful completion of the AECOP professional examination and the gaining of the AECOP Interim Certificate. Such period will be for the time specified on the Interim Certificate and will be to allow the candidate to complete the AECOP clinical examination component.

If Limited Registration holders allow their Limited Registration to expire after either 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 AECOP 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 three months in any one position under the supervision of a 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 ACOPRA 12 Month Limited Registration Model

Criterion 1 of the ACOPRA 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.*"

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 AECOP INTERIM CERTIFICATE

Overseas qualified physiotherapists who have passed the AECOP professional examinations are awarded the AECOP 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 AECOP clinical examinations. The Board will grant Limited Registration to holders of the AECOP Interim Certificate. Such provision will be contingent upon the Board's protocols being met (as listed earlier in this document).

The AECOP Final Certificate is awarded following successful completion of AECOP clinical examinations. The AECOP 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