Fact Sheet – What is a registered paramedic?

Updated November 2021

What is a registered paramedic?

What is a registered 'paramedic'?

To call yourself a paramedic you must be registered with the Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board). Registration is open to anyone who can satisfy the Board that they are qualified and suitable for registration.

A number of pathways are available under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) for an individual to demonstrate that they are qualified for registration. Holding an approved or accepted qualification holding a substantially equivalent qualification or holding a relevant qualification and successfully completing the required paramedicine competency assessment are ways that can be used to demonstrate that you are qualified to apply for registration as a paramedic.

Am I eligible for registration?

Paramedic Practice

Historically, in Australia, paramedics are generally associated with the provision of emergency or unscheduled care to acutely ill or injured persons, predominantly in an out of hospital or primary care environment. This may involve autonomous practice, complex patient assessments and delivery of treatment which may include the administration of scheduled medicines.

Acknowledging this history, and given the broad and inclusive definition of 'practice' [1] for a registered health professional used by professions regulated under the National Law, any use of professional skills and knowledge by a registered paramedic that may impact (directly or indirectly) on the safe and effective delivery of paramedic services could be considered 'practising' as a paramedic.

This provides opportunities for workforce flexibility and innovation in recognising that the actual breadth of paramedic practice is not limited and can encompass a wide variety of both clinical and non-clinical activities in a wide variety of roles and settings in jurisdictional ambulance services, health services, hospitals, the defence forces, private industry, as well as academic and broader government sectors.

'Paramedic practice' or the 'scope of paramedic practice' is not specifically defined or described for the paramedicine profession in the National Law. An individual practitioner's scope of practice is determined by their individual skills, training and competence in the work they do and also may be described as part of their employment. It is an individual registered paramedic's ethical and

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[1] Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession.

professional responsibility to maintain recency in their scope of practice and ensure (and demonstrate if required) that they are suitably trained and competent to undertake whatever activities they do in their practice of the profession.

It is important to note that the requirements for general registration as a paramedic are common to all paramedics based on:

- holding the requisite qualifications for entry to the profession approved by the Board or an accepted qualification prescribed by the National Law, and
- being a suitable person in meeting the five mandatory registration standards for entry to the paramedicine profession approved by the Ministerial Council.

It should be noted that registration as a paramedic by the Board is separate from any workplace credentialing undertaken by an individual employer and 'defining scope of practice' as an employee.

Review

This position statement will be reviewed as required. This will generally be at least every three years. Last reviewed: 25 November 2021.