

Frequently asked questions - Criminal history

What is the background behind this requirement for paramedics?

The requirement for criminal history checks and to have a criminal history registration standard is set out in the National Law, and it is the same across all the regulated professions.

When do I do my checks?

When a practitioner first applies for registration, the National Board requires the applicant to declare all charges and offences criminal history in all countries, including Australia. A domestic check is automatically undertaken as part of the registration process, but if you have lived or worked in one or more countries other than Australia for six consecutive months or longer, when aged 18 years or more, you will need to organise your own international criminal history check using one of the [approved providers](#).

If you are, or have been a member of the Australian Military/Defence Force who has served overseas, the Board will accept a statutory declaration in place of an international criminal history check.

Please don't apply for an ICHC until you are ready to commence your application form as it is only valid for three months from the date of issue.

Do I have to pay for the police check?

An Australian police check is included in the application fee, but if you are required to obtain an international criminal history check, you will need to do so through one of the two AHPRA approved providers at your own expense.

When should I engage with the Board/AHPRA about my criminal history?

In accordance with section 130 of the National Law, once registered, all registered health practitioners must, within 7 days after becoming aware of a relevant event, inform their National Board if they are:

- charged with an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more, or
- convicted or found guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment in Australia and/or overseas.

When practitioners renew their registration they must disclose any changes to their criminal history.

Failing to declare your criminal history upon application for registration may jeopardise your application.

How will the Board decide if my criminal history is relevant to practising my profession and if it will register me?

The Board will consider ten factors (which are set out in the [Criminal history registration standard](#)) when deciding if your criminal history will affect your application for registration.

Factors include such things as, for example, the nature and gravity of the offence and its relevance to your health practice, time that has elapsed since the offence, whether or not the offence is part of a pattern of behaviour, and so on. While every case will need to be decided on an individual basis, the ten factors provide the basis for the Board's consideration.

For more information, please refer to the [International criminal history page](#) on the AHPRA website.