



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice	Occupational Therapy
Chinese Medicine	Optometry
Chiropractic	Osteopathy
Dental	Pharmacy
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Medical Radiation Practice	Podiatry
Nursing and Midwifery	Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Fact sheet

1 November 2018

English language transitional arrangements policy

Overview

This fact sheet provides information about the Paramedicine Board of Australia's (the Board) *English language transitional arrangements policy* (the Transition arrangements policy) published on 1 November 2018.

Background

The Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) requires all applicants for initial registration, including those who are currently practising paramedicine in Australia, to meet the Board's *Registration standard: English language skills* (the EL standard).

There are four pathways in the EL standard through which an applicant can demonstrate their competence in speaking and communicating in English is sufficient to practice paramedicine, including three education pathways and an English language test pathway. Paramedics who completed their schooling and qualification for registration in Australia will meet the standard through the combined secondary and qualifications or training pathway.

The Board has recently identified that there are a small number of paramedics who have been practising for a substantial period of time in Australia who will not meet any of the education pathways in the English language standard and will need to use a testing pathway.

These practitioners are in a unique situation, as they have a substantial history of satisfactory practice in the paramedicine profession in Australia. Accordingly, to prevent any potential adverse effects on the workforce, the Board has developed a specific Transitional arrangements policy for these applicants, which is open for paramedics applying for registration before 28 February 2019.

The transitional arrangements

The transitional arrangement policy allows for an additional English language test consisting of a practical assessment of whether your ability to speak, listen, read and write in the English language is sufficient to practice the paramedicine profession. The assessment is to be carried out by your current Employer (who must meet the requirements detailed below) and the results must be provided in the form published on the [Board's website](#).

The transitional arrangements policy is open for paramedics applying for registration before 28 February 2019.

Criteria for meeting the Transitional arrangements policy

To meet the EL standard through the Transitional arrangements policy you must:

- apply for registration as a paramedic before 28 February 2019
- be qualified to be registered as a paramedic under the National Law (except for the requirement to satisfy the EL standard)

- be currently employed by a Jurisdictional Ambulance Service in Australia or an organisation with a clinical governance framework that meets the requirements of the *National Model Clinical Governance Framework*¹ (or similar) and is suitably experienced in the delivery of paramedic and/or related clinical services (Employer), and
- have completed at least five years of practice, within the past 10 years, as a paramedic in Australia while employed by an Employer. If the Employer is the Ambulance Service of New South Wales the five years may include a combination of training and practice, provided it includes at least two years of post-qualification practice.

The most common profile of an applicant covered by the transitional arrangements is a paramedic who was originally from overseas and has completed either high school or their qualification overseas (not in a recognised country*) and who has practiced as a paramedic in Australia for over five years.

For example:

- An applicant who is born in Germany, completed their primary and secondary schooling in Germany (not a recognised country*), holds a NSW Ambulance Diploma in Paramedical Science (which is an accepted qualification) and has been a NSW Ambulance Paramedic *for over five years* will meet the EL standard through the transitional arrangements pathway.
- An applicant who is born in Japan, completed their primary and secondary schooling in Japan (not a recognised country*), holds an approved qualification and has been an Ambulance Tasmania paramedic *for two years*, will not meet the EL standard through the transition arrangements test pathway. This applicant will need to sit the English language test.

What do I need to do?

If you meet the criteria for the transitional arrangements, you will need to:

1. discuss with your Employer to confirm your eligibility, and request they complete the required form published on the Board's website, and
2. upload the form with your application for registration, and apply for registration before 28 February 2019.

If you don't meet the criteria for the transitional arrangements, you will need to sit an [English language test](#) to meet the EL standard.

Tips for completing the English language skills section of the online registration form

1. select the check box "*I do not meet any of the above English language competence pathways*", and
2. answer **YES** to the question "*Do you meet the specific criteria outlined in the Board's policy Transitional arrangements for the Registration standard*" *English language skills*", and
3. arrange for a [Transitional arrangements for English Language skills \(TAEL\) form](#) to be completed by your current employer which you will need to upload in the Document Upload section of the form.

¹ <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/National-Model-Clinical-Governance-Framework.pdf>

*Recognised countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, UK and USA.