

NOVEMBER 2003

NEWSLETTER

PHYSIOTHERAPIST'S REGISTRATION
BOARD OF TASMANIA

Introduction

Board Office Facilities

1st Floor, 22 Liverpool Street
HOBART TAS 7000

The office is open from 9:00am to 5:15pm Monday to Friday for all enquiries, payment of renewals and for the purpose of lodging documents. The office will close for the Christmas/New Year holidays from Friday 19th December and re-open Monday 5th January.

Composition of the Board

The Board membership consists of three physiotherapists, two consumer representatives and a Registrar.

Dennis Holzberger – Physiotherapist & Chairman
Julia Drew – Physiotherapist
Janet Millner – Physiotherapist
Peter Lloyd – Consumer Representative
Margaret Murray – Consumer Representative
Wayne Anning – Registrar

Payment of Fees

The date for payment of registration fees is 31st December each year. It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that payment is received by the due date to avoid paying a late fee or removal from the Register.

It is equally important to advise the Board of any change of address to ensure your renewals are received in a timely manner. The Schedule of Fees for 2004 is as follows:

Application for Registration	\$125
Annual Registration	\$125
Late Fee	\$20
Restoration Fee	\$40
Replacement Certificate	\$20
Fee to inspect the Register	\$10 per page

Merry Christmas

The Board wishes you a safe and merry Christmas, and all the best for the New Year.

Physiotherapist Registration

This is a brief summary of the forms of registration available for Physiotherapists to practice in Tasmania. All Physiotherapists practising in Tasmania need to be registered.

Temporary Registration for a Special Purpose

All visiting Physiotherapists with sporting teams, providing lectures with hands-on components, etc. need to be registered. Tasmanian Physiotherapists' Registration Board (The Board) should be notified of details of the Physiotherapist and the event. Provided the Physiotherapist would normally be eligible for registration approval for that event will be confirmed. This does not incur a fee.

Physiotherapists who have completed part of the Australian Examining Committee for Overseas Physiotherapists (AECOP) and who wish to undertake supervised practice prior to sitting the clinical examinations may apply for restricted registration for the period of supervision and at the particular site where the supervision is being provided. The Board would also need to be satisfied that there is a capacity for the supervision to be provided at that site. This incurs a fee, but if the applicant subsequently applies for full registration in Tasmania, the fee would offset the fee for the subsequent application.

Temporary Registration for Physiotherapist with Working Holiday Visas

For applications to be successful under this provision all conditions, required of both applicant and the employer, must be satisfied.

The physiotherapists must:

- Be in Australia or intending to be in Australia as part of Dept. of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Working Holiday Maker Program
- Possess minimum qualification of a four year degree in Physiotherapy from a University or equivalent institution
- The language the course is taught in must be exclusively English
- Have worked for a minimum of one year.

- Identify the proposed employer at the time of application.

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The employer must:

- Demonstrate the capacity to supervise the applicant at a level equivalent to that required of a final year Physiotherapy pre-registration student from a University whose qualifications are recognised by The Board as suitable for registration
- Enter into an agreement with The Board that the applicant will only work in a supervised capacity as previously defined
- Provide a report to The Board, in a form required by The Board, at the conclusion of the period of employment

The agreement between The Board and the employer is not transferable. A change of employment requires a new agreement to be entered into.

Registration in this form in Tasmania should not be understood to mean that equivalent provisions exist in other states or territories of the Commonwealth of Australia. This is a form of limited, temporary registration – it is not full registration.

Temporary Registration for Overseas Physiotherapists

For applications to be successful under this provision all conditions, required of both applicant and the employer, must be satisfied.

The physiotherapists must:

- Possess minimum qualification of a four year degree in Physiotherapy from a University or equivalent institution. The course content of the physiotherapy qualification should include theoretical and clinical components of cardio-respiratory, musculo-skeletal and neurological physiotherapy and of electrotherapy similar in duration to an Australian qualification.
- A period of paid employment in clinical practice under conditions equivalent to practice in Australia for at least 12 months out of the previous two years..

- Applicants must provide 2 referees to substantiate a reliable and competent work history since graduation. At least one referee must be a physiotherapist who has supervised the applicant during the previous 12 months.
- The applicant is or is entitled to be registered or licensed to practice as a physiotherapist in the country in which the course was taken.
- The language the course is taught in must be exclusively English **OR** If the applicant is from a country where English is not their first language, they must be able to demonstrate that they have a comprehensive knowledge and satisfactory level of skill in English. A "B" pass in all four sections of the Occupational English Test (OET) or an overall score of Band 7 (with a minimum of Band 6 in each of the 4 components) in the Academic module of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) will satisfy this requirement if gained within 12 months of application
- Applicants must be "sponsored" to work within a defined physiotherapy facility within Tasmania. The sponsor must be a registered Tasmanian physiotherapist who satisfies agreed eligibility criteria.

The employer must:

- Demonstrate the capacity to supervise the applicant at a level equivalent to that required of a final year Physiotherapy pre-registration student from a University whose qualifications are recognised by The Board as suitable for registration
- Enter into an agreement with The Board that the applicant will only work in a supervised capacity as previously defined
- The employer should be associated with a health service provider or private practice large enough to have supportive structures such as in service training and quality improvement activities.
- Provide a report to The Board, in a form required by The Board, at the conclusion of the period of employment

The agreement between The Board and the employer is not transferable. A change of employment requires a new agreement to be entered into.

Registration in this form in Tasmania should not be understood to mean that equivalent provisions exist in other states or territories of the Commonwealth of Australia. This is a form of limited, temporary registration – it is not full registration. The maximum period for this form of registration is one year.

Full registration

A Physiotherapist who has graduated from an Australian School of Physiotherapy recognised by The Board is entitled to full registration in Tasmania. These Schools of Physiotherapy would be those accredited by Australian Council of Physiotherapy Regulating Authorities (ACOPRA).

Under matching Commonwealth and State Mutual Recognition legislation, a Physiotherapist with full registration in another Australian State or Territory is entitled to full registration in Tasmania.

Under matching Commonwealth and State Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition legislation, a Physiotherapist with full registration in New Zealand is entitled to full registration in Tasmania.

A physiotherapist who has completed the AECOP process and has received AECOP Final Certificate or who have been issued with an AECOP Skilled Migration Certificate is entitled to full registration in Tasmania.

Complaints

During the last twelve months The Board has received five complaints from members of the public. Three of these complaints have been investigated by or are being investigated by a disciplinary committee. The complaints involve or have involved matters of professional misconduct including sexual misconduct, quality of care, harm to a patient, fees, communication and record keeping. Of these complaints three have already been resolved by The Board.

Website

The Board is currently developing a website at www.physioboard.tas.gov.au. It is envisaged that this will provide far better communication with physiotherapists and the public. Direct access will be provided to the following documents:

- Application and Renewal of Registration forms
- Board policy documents
- Newsletters
- Legislation

The website will also have linkages to interstate registration boards, ACOPRA and the government legislation unit. All registered persons will be notified when the website is established.

Record Keeping

The Board wishes to draw the attention of all physiotherapists to the comments with regard to the recording of clinical observations in the Australian Therapy Competency Standards revised by ACOPRA in 2002. In particular the reference is made to element 4.3 on page 43 of the Competency Standards. This states:

Performance Criteria

4.3 Produces clear, concise, accurate, legible and meaningful written records and reports which meet State and Commonwealth legislative medico-legal requirements.

Example of Cues

1. Documents details of physiotherapy intervention plan, including:
 - problems (symptoms/signs)
 - other relevant medical history
 - co-existing conditions
 - factors influencing client presentation and which may influence intervention
 - significant features of assessment
 - skin sensitivity tests performed and results
 - gaining of informed consent prior to treatment
 - type of intervention and dosage
 - including prioritising, sequencing and progression of intervention procedures.

2. Records client's expectations regarding physiotherapy intervention and its outcome.
3. Records agreement of client/caregiver to the listed priorities.
4. Records evaluative and re-evaluative procedures employed, with relevant dates, including qualitative and quantitative changes following physiotherapy intervention.
5. Records goals of colleagues, where relevant, and action taken.
6. Records warnings given to client regarding risks and precautions.
7. Records details of client's self-management plan.
8. Keeps records of contacts made by telephone, visit or letter with relevant personnel regarding physiotherapy management of the client, consistent with the procedures of the facility.
9. Records referral of client to other professional colleagues, where relevant.
10. Legibly signs and dates each entry.
11. Keeps records up-to-date on each consultation.
12. Records the date at which intervention ceased, the status of the client at that time, and the reason for discontinuing.
13. Finalises reports within a specified time frame where this is required.

4.3b. Where appropriate, and with the client's consent, sends written reports on the client's status to professional colleagues or relevant agencies.

Examples of cues:

1. Produces succinct reports in a professional format.
2. Provides evidence of progress towards goals.