



Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Nursing and Midwifery
Optometry

Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Fact Sheet: Endorsement of Registration

What is an 'endorsement'?

Under the National Law, National Boards can 'endorse' the registration of suitably qualified practitioners. An endorsement of registration recognises that a person has additional qualifications and expertise in an approved area of practice and / or for scheduled medicines.

Registered practitioners in all professions who are transitioning to registration under the National Law and have an endorsement on their registration, will transition with this endorsement (provided there is an equivalent endorsement under the National Law).

In some cases, National Boards are seeking information from other sources to identify practitioners who may be eligible to transition to the National Law with an endorsement.

Practitioners who do not have an endorsement for which they believe they are qualified may apply after 1 July 2010 to their National Board under the National Law. Application forms will be available on the AHPRA website close to 1 July 2010.

What types of endorsement are available under the National Law?

There are a number of different types of endorsement available under the National Law.

Endorsement for scheduled medicines

See section 94 of the National Law.

This type of endorsement identifies registered practitioners within a profession who the National Board has determined are qualified to use (for example, supply or prescribe) medicines that are otherwise subject to restricted access because of State and Territory laws that regulate drugs and poisons.

Scheduled medicines endorsements have been approved by the Ministerial Council to apply to:

- Nursing
- Optometry and
- Podiatry

The endorsement identifies you on the register as qualified to use specified scheduled medicines. Exactly what scheduled medicines you are **authorised** to

use and under what circumstances depends on the State or Territory in which you practise and the local drugs and poisons laws that apply there. You may be authorised in one State or Territory to the full scope of the endorsement granted by the National Board, and in another, you may not be authorised to prescribe scheduled medicines at all.

You should check for more details on your Board's website about the authorities that apply to your profession in each State and Territory and the qualifications and other requirements for scheduled medicines endorsement.

Endorsement as a nurse practitioner

See section 95 of the National Law.

This type of endorsement may only be granted to registered nurses (division 1) who are qualified for advanced practice in nursing. The qualifications and other requirements for nurse practitioner endorsement will be published on the Board's website.

Endorsement as a midwife practitioner

See section 96 of the National Law.

This type of endorsement may only be granted to midwives who are qualified for advanced practice in midwifery.

Endorsement for acupuncture

See section 97 of the National Law.

This type of endorsement may be granted to registered practitioners in any of the health professions regulated under the National Law who are also qualified to practise as an acupuncturist.

Victorian registered practitioners who hold an endorsement for acupuncture under the Victorian *Health Professions Registration Act 2005* will transition to registration under the National law with their endorsement for acupuncture.

Practitioners in other States and Territories will need to apply for endorsement for acupuncture after 1 July 2010.

To practise acupuncture in any State and Territory other than Victoria, endorsement will not be required until 1 July 2012 when regulation of the profession of Chinese medicine begins nationally.

In Victoria, it will continue to be an offence under the *Health Professions Registration Act 2005* (Vic) for a practitioner to practise as an acupuncturist in Victoria unless they hold either registration with the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria, or an endorsement for acupuncture granted by a National Board.

Registered practitioners in all States and Territories except Victoria who wish to practise acupuncture will need to apply for an endorsement for acupuncture after

1 July 2010 but before 1 July 2012. Practitioners who wish to practise acupuncture in Victoria who do not currently hold an endorsement for acupuncture will need to apply to their National Board for an endorsement before practising acupuncture in Victoria after 1 July 2010.

Endorsement for approved area of practice

See section 98 of the National Law.

This type of endorsement identifies classes of registered practitioner who hold additional qualifications in an area of practice that has been approved by the Ministerial Council under section 15 of the National Law.

The Ministerial Council has approved the following areas of practice:

- Psychology – seven approved areas of practice (clinical psychology, counselling psychology, forensic psychology, clinical neuropsychology, organisational psychology, sport and exercise psychology, and educational and developmental psychology)
- Dentists – one approved area of practice (conscious sedation)

What are the qualifications for endorsement?

The qualifications and other requirements for endorsement are set out in registration standards set by the National Boards and published on each Board website.

20 April 2010