

Policy – assessment of qualifications for registration

Effective 1 December 2021

Who this policy is for?

This policy is applied by Ahpra from 1 December 2021 to assess paramedicine qualifications that are not approved or accepted qualifications for the purposes of registration under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory (National Law)

Relevant provisions

Sections 52 and 53 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*, as in force in each state and territory (National Law) are relevant to this policy.

Summary

An individual must be *qualified* to be registered as a paramedic under the National Law. The National Law has four pathways to assess whether an individual is qualified for registration as a paramedic.

Individuals seeking general registration as a paramedic who do not hold approved or accepted paramedicine qualifications under the National Law, may qualify for general registration through the two of these pathways. Ahpra will assess whether these individuals qualify for registration by holding a qualification (or qualifications, when considered together):

- the Board considers *substantially equivalent* or *based on similar competencies* to an approved qualification (s53(b); or
- *relevant to the paramedicine profession in Australia* and successfully completing *an exam or other assessment required by the Board* (s53(c)).

Paramedicine Board of Australia threshold requirements for an individual to qualify through the section 53(b) pathway

The Paramedicine Board of Australia has approved the following threshold requirements that Ahpra will use to assess whether an individual holds a qualification (or qualifications, when considered together) that the Board considers *substantially equivalent* or *based on similar competencies* to an approved qualification:

- a. the qualification was recognised by a statutory registration/licensing body for registration as a paramedic in the country where the individual completed the program of study leading to the qualification **and** the individual has met any pre-registration examination requirements. *If there is no registration/licensing for paramedics in that country*, the qualification enabled the individual to practise paramedicine in the country where the applicant completed the program of study leading to the qualification, and
- b. at the time the individual was awarded their qualification as a paramedic the qualification was subject to quality assurance **and** recognised or accredited by a body external to the education institution **and** the quality assurance was based on published accreditation standards for paramedic education. The accreditation standards for paramedic education **must** include **all of the following**:

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- contemporary approaches to education
- institutional resources (staffing and facilities)
- evidenced based and contemporary practice
- clinical placements including “on the job” paramedic experience under supervision across a range of healthcare and community settings, and
- medication management that addresses safe and effective use of medicines.

The published processes for reviewing programs/providers against the accreditation standards **must include the following:**

- an assessment conducted by an individual or team with appropriate expertise in education and in paramedic practice, and
 - regular review of the program of study such as annual reporting or cyclic re-accreditation, and
- c. the academic level of the individual’s qualification is comparable to (at a minimum) an Australian Bachelor degree. (AQF L7)

Outcomes

If the outcome of Ahpra’s assessment is that an individual holds a qualification (or qualifications, when considered together) that the Board considers *substantially equivalent* or *based on similar competencies* to an approved paramedicine qualification, Ahpra will advise the individual to apply for registration. Subject to the individual’s application for registration meeting all other suitability and registration requirements, these individuals may be granted general registration.

If the outcome of Ahpra’s assessment is that an individual does not hold a qualification (or qualifications, when considered together) that the Board considers *substantially equivalent* or *based on similar competencies* to an approved paramedicine qualification, Ahpra will use the Board’s approved threshold requirements described in this policy to assess whether the individual holds a qualification (or qualifications, when considered together) that the Board considers *relevant to the paramedicine profession* in Australia.

Paramedicine Board of Australia threshold requirements for an individual’s qualification(s) to be assessed as relevant to the paramedicine profession in Australia as part of the section 53(c) pathway

The Paramedicine Board of Australia has approved the following threshold requirements that Ahpra will use to assess whether an individual holds a qualification (or qualifications, when considered together) that the Board considers *relevant to the paramedicine profession* in Australia:

- a. the qualification was recognised by a statutory registration/licensing body for registration as a paramedic in the country where the individual completed the program of study leading to the qualification **and** the individual has met any pre-registration examination requirements. *If there is no registration/licensing in that country the qualification enabled the individual to practise paramedicine in the country where the applicant completed the program of study leading to the qualification*, and
- b. the program of study leading to the individual’s qualification covered the following:
 - evidenced based and contemporary paramedicine practice
 - clinical placements including “on the job” paramedic experience under supervision across a range of healthcare and community settings, and
 - medication management that addresses safe and effective use of medicines
- c. the academic level of the individual’s qualification is comparable to (at a minimum) an Australian Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree (AQF L6)

Outcomes

If the outcome of Ahpra’s assessment is that an individual holds a qualification (or qualifications, when considered together) that the Board considers *relevant to the paramedicine profession* in Australia, the Paramedicine Board of Australia requires the individual to successfully complete the paramedicine competency assessment to qualify for registration through the section 53(c) pathway.

The Board's paramedicine competency assessment is conducted across Australia by a consortium of universities, under the terms of an agreement with Ahpra. More information on the required assessment can be found at <https://www.paramedicassessments.com>

If the outcome of Ahpra's assessment is that an individual does not hold a qualification (or qualifications, when considered together) that the Board considers *substantially equivalent* or *based on similar competencies* to an approved paramedicine qualification, or *relevant to the paramedicine profession* in Australia, Ahpra will recommend the individual's pathway to qualify for general registration is completion of a paramedicine program in Australia that leads to an approved qualification.

Outcomes of examination required by the Paramedicine Board of Australia as part of the section 53(c) pathway

If an individual whose qualification(s) are assessed as *relevant to the paramedicine profession* in Australia successfully completes the Board's paramedicine competency assessment, Ahpra will advise the individual to apply for registration. Subject to the individual's application for registration meeting all other suitability and registration requirements, these individuals may be granted general registration.

If an individual whose qualification(s) are assessed as *relevant to the paramedicine profession* in Australia fails or does not undertake the Board's paramedicine competency assessment, Ahpra will recommend the individual's pathway to qualify for general registration is completion of a paramedicine program in Australia that leads to an approved qualification.

Document control

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