



<b>HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>TITLE: Current Competence Policy</b>	
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> 6 February 2006	<b>REVIEWED</b> 1 July 2008
<b>BOARD: THE ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKERS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY</b>	

### **PURPOSE**

To ensure that all persons applying for registration are competent to practise.

To ensure that applicants for registration, who are not able to provide evidence of current competence, are able to practise within safe parameters and work towards providing evidence of competence.

### **SUPPORTING POLICIES**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Entitlement to Registration – Aboriginal Health Worker May 2004.

### **BACKGROUND**

Under Section 22 1(b) of the *Health Practitioners Act 2004* (the Act) the Board requires applicants to demonstrate current competence. The Board has determined that adequate evidence of current competence includes:

- Recency of Practice, and
- Participation in continuing professional development (an explanation of which is available in the explanatory notes on all application forms).

Recency of Practise is defined as the period of time between making an application for registration and the date when the applicant last practised in a clinical setting.

### **POLICY STATEMENTS**

#### **Requirement for Senior First Aid Certificate**

Registered Aboriginal Health Workers who have not worked in a clinical setting in the last 12 months and intend on doing so are strongly advised to successfully complete a senior First Aid Certificate.

Applicants seeking registration who have not practised in a clinical setting in the past 12 months who are otherwise eligible for registration are required to hold a current senior First Aid Certificate.

The Board may apply conditions to an applicant's registration which may include, but is not limited to, successful completion of a Senior First Aid Certificate.

#### **Recency of Practice Policy Statements**

An applicant for registration as an Aboriginal Health Worker must have practised in a clinical practice setting within the past 3 years to be eligible for registration.

All applications received by the Board from persons who have not practised in a clinical practice setting within the past 3 years, will be assessed on an individual basis.

#### **Not Practised For Previous the 3 Years**

The Board may issue conditional registration to an applicant who is otherwise eligible for registration but has not practised in the previous **3 years**. The conditions may include but are not limited to successfully completing:

- A senior First Aid certificate;
- To work under the supervision of a registered Aboriginal Health Worker, Registered Nurse or Registered Medical Practitioner; and

- An assessment against the identified units within the Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice). (*refer to the addendum below*).

### **Not Practised For Previous 3 – 5 Years**

The Board may issue conditional registration to an applicant who is otherwise eligible for registration but has not practised in the previous **3 to 5 years**. The conditions may include but are not limited to successfully completing:

- A senior First Aid certificate;
- To work under the supervision of a registered Aboriginal Health Worker, Registered Nurse or Registered Medical Practitioner;
- To provide the Board with supervision reports at 6 monthly intervals or another frequency as determined by the Board from date of commencing employment; and
- An assessment against the identified units within the Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice). (*refer to the addendum below*)

### **Not Practised For Previous 5 to 10 Years**

The Board may issue conditional registration to an applicant who is otherwise eligible for registration but has not practised in the previous **5 to 10 years**.

The conditions may include but are not limited to successfully completing:

- A senior First Aid certificate;
- To work under the direct supervision of a registered Aboriginal Health Worker, Registered Nurse or Registered Medical Practitioner;
- To provide the Board with supervision report at one month at 6 monthly intervals thereafter or another frequency as determined by the Board, and
- An assessment against the identified units within the Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice). (*refer to the addendum below*) **or**
- Determine that the applicant is not eligible for registration and is required to meet all requirements of the entitlement to registration policy.

### **Not Practised For Previous 10 Years or More**

The Board will not issue conditional registration to applicants who have not been registered as an Aboriginal Health Worker in the previous 10 years or more. Such persons are advised to undertake Aboriginal Health Worker studies that provide entitlement to registration (refer to the Board's Entitlement to Registration Policy).

### **Review of Conditions**

The Board requires conditional registrants to comply with the conditions on their registration; to do otherwise may lead to a review of registration.

The Board requires certified or original documented evidence of successful completion of the requirements prior to removing the conditions placed on the registration.

### **ADDENDUM:**

The 'identified units' referred to above are contained in the Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) in the Health Training Package HLT07, these "identified units" are;

- Senior First Aid or HLTAAHW 301B
- HLTAAHW401A Assessment of Client Physical Wellbeing
- HLTAAHW402A Assess and Support Client Social and Emotional Wellbeing:  
Element 2 – Performance Criteria 1–10 Essential Skills and Essential Knowledge
- HLTAAHW404A Monitor Health Care
- HLTAAHW406A Work with Medicines