



HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY	
TITLE:	Entitlement to Registration Policy
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 2004	REVIEWED: February 2007, March 2009
SCHEDULED NEXT REVIEW: February 2011	
BOARD: Optometrists Board of the Northern Territory	

Purpose

This policy has been developed to provide clear direction to staff of the Health Professions Licensing Authority, members of the Optometrists Board of the Northern Territory and intending registrants regarding the entitlement to register as an optometrist in the Northern Territory.

Supporting policies

This policy should be considered in conjunction with the Health Professions Licensing Authority Registration Policy.

Who is entitled to register as an optometrist in the Northern Territory?

The Board will grant registration to optometrists who are able to provide evidence with their application as follows:

Section 22(a) Are eligible to apply

Optometrists educated in Australia or New Zealand

1. Certified copy of qualification from an Australian or New Zealand School of Optometry.
2. Meet the Board's identification validation requirements; and
3. Certified copy of proof of name change (if applicable).

Optometrists educated in overseas countries other than New Zealand

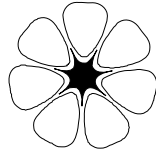
1. Certificate issued by the Optometry Council of Australian and New Zealand (OCANZ) attesting that the applicant has completed the OCANZ assessment process;
2. Meet the Board's identification validation requirements; and
3. Certified copy of proof of name change (if applicable).

Section 22(b and Section 22(c) Have sufficient competence and capacity to practise

Applicant to:

1. Declare that they have practised within the preceding 5 years as an optometrist;
2. Declare that they are competent practitioner as self-assessed against the Optometrists Association of Australia (OAA) Competency Standards for entry-level to practise¹;

¹ The OAA entry-level standards include competence in the use of ocular diagnostics. Optometrists educated prior to 1983 would need to have undertaken additional training to confirm this in their declaration.



3. Declare that they practise in accordance with the OAA patient rights charter;
4. Declare that they do not suffer any physical or mental illness that would prevent them from practising competently; and
5. Provide a written reference from their employer dated within the previous 6 months, (not applicable New Graduates).

Section 22(d) Have an adequate command of the English language

Optometrists educated in Australia or New Zealand

The Board had discretionary power to require an applicant to provide proof of English language competence at any time.

Optometrists educated in overseas countries other than New Zealand

The Board has adopted the OCANZ English language requirement, which is a pass in a specific English Language Test for health professionals, for example the Occupational English language Test.

Section 22(e) Have adequate professional indemnity arrangements in place

Applicants are to make a declaration on their application form that if they intend to practise in the Northern Territory they will ensure that they have adequate professional indemnity arrangements in place.

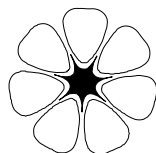
Section 22(f) Are of good character

All applicants are to:

- Declare that they have not had their name suspended or removed from a register or been refused registration for any reason relating to their professional conduct;
- Declare that they have never been prohibited from or had any special condition imposed on their practise as a result of criminal, civil or disciplinary proceedings;
- Declare that they have not been charged or convicted of any offence;
- Declare that they do not know of any outstanding matter relating to their registration in any state/territory/country;
- Provide a written character reference dated within the last 6 months; and
- Provide a certificate of good standing from an optometry registration Board that they currently hold registration with or most recently held registration with.

New Graduates

New graduates are also required to provide a letter from their University attesting to their good character.



Identification validation requirements

Applicants must provide 100 points of identification from the categories listed below, with their application for registration or authorisation as an optometrist in the Northern Territory. All documents must be an original or certified as a true copy of the original by a Board approved certifier.

Applicants must provide at least one document that includes a photograph.

No exemptions to the identification validation requirements will be accepted

Category A document (70 points)

- Copy of current registration with an Australian Optometry Board

Category B document (70 points) Must provide only one from this category

- Front page of a current Australian passport; or
- Front page of any other passport with copy of current visa; or
- Birth Certificate/Birth Card (extract acceptable); or
- Citizenship certificate

Category C documents (40 points)

- License or permit issued under a law of Australia
- Identification card issued to a public service employee
- Identification card issued by a government department as evidence of a person's entitlement to a financial benefit
- Student card issued by an Australian tertiary education institution
- International English Language Testing System Test Report Form (IELTS-TRF) (with photograph only)

Category D documents (25 points)

- International Drivers Licence
- Medicare card
- Public utilities account (electricity bill, telephone bill)
- Rates notice.
- Credit card (maximum of two only), cash card or passbook issued by a financial institution
- Certificate of Good Standing/Verification of Registration Status. The document must be from the immediate previous regulatory authority. The document must be received directly from that regulatory authority, not from the applicant.
- Evidence of current registration with an overseas optometry regulatory authority

**All forms and any other updated information can be found on the Optometrists Board of the Northern Territory's website www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards