



## **RACP policy on assessment of Overseas Trained Physicians and Paediatricians (OTPs)**

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>RACP policy on assessment of Overseas Trained Physicians and Paediatricians (OTPs)</b>
<b>Department</b>	Office of the Dean
<b>Approved by</b>	OTP Committee and College Education Committee
<b>Approval Date</b>	College Education Committee (15 July 2016)
<b>Publication Date</b>	1 November 2016
<b>Policy status</b>	New

### **1 Purpose and scope**

- 1.1 This policy is about the assessment of specialist international medical graduates (SIMGs) by The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) to determine their eligibility for medical registration and eligibility for Fellowship of the RACP.
- 1.2 The term used for SIMGs undergoing specialist assessment by the RACP in Australia and New Zealand is Overseas Trained Physicians or Paediatricians (OTPs)
- 1.3 The RACP determines assessment decisions on the eligibility of OTPs for specialist recognition in Australia.
- 1.4 The RACP recommends assessment decisions to the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) on the eligibility of OTPs for vocational registration in New Zealand.
- 1.5 The RACP also determines the eligibility of OTPs for Fellowship of the RACP:
  - 1.5.1 In Australia - OTPs with specialist recognition;
  - 1.5.2 In New Zealand - OTPs with vocational registration (on submission of their Fellowship application).

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Regulatory framework in Australia
  - 2.1.1 Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*, the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) is responsible for granting medical registration in Australia.
  - 2.1.2 The MBA, through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), has delegated the assessment of OTPs who have applied for registration as a medical specialist to the relevant medical colleges.
  - 2.1.3 The RACP is the relevant medical college for OTPs in the specialties of addiction medicine, adult medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, paediatrics and child health, public health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, nuclear health medicine and sexual health medicine.
  - 2.1.4 The specialist assessment process (known as the 'specialist pathway') is defined by the MBA as an assessment of the comparability of the OTP to an Australian trained specialist.
  - 2.1.5 For the purposes of this assessment in Australia, the RACP uses the MBA definitions of comparability to an Australian trained specialist, and follows the guidelines for specialist assessment published by the MBA.
- 2.2 Regulatory framework in New Zealand
  - 2.2.1 Under the *Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003*, the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ) is responsible for granting medical registration in New Zealand.
  - 2.2.2 As the accredited specialist training college, the RACP acts as a Vocational Education Advisory Body (VEAB) to the MCNZ and advises on the suitability for vocational registration (specialist registration) of OTPs in the specialties listed in 2.1.3 and also in the specialty of dermatology.
  - 2.2.3 The vocational registration process is managed by the MCNZ, which seeks the advice of the RACP on the eligibility of OTPs for vocational registration.
  - 2.2.4 For the purposes of providing this advice, the RACP follows the standards for vocational assessment published by the MCNZ.

## **3 RACP assessment of OTPs for eligibility to practise**

- 3.1 RACP assessment of OTPs will:
  - 3.1.1 consider each OTP's training, qualifications and experience;
  - 3.1.2 be conducted in a procedurally fair manner.
- 3.2 The RACP will publish supporting guidelines for OTP assessment that outline processes, timelines, and requirements.
- 3.3 The RACP is not responsible for and cannot assist OTPs with:
  - 3.3.1 finding employment
  - 3.3.2 immigration or visa requirements
  - 3.3.3 medical registration matters
  - 3.3.4 (in Australia) Medicare provider status

- 3.3.5 (in New Zealand) MCNZ supervision and vocational practice assessment (VPA)
- 3.3.6 English language testing requirements
- 3.3.7 primary source verification of overseas qualifications.

#### **4 Responsibilities of OTPs**

- 4.1 OTPs should familiarise themselves with the relevant Australian or New Zealand regulations and guidelines for assessment and registration, and the supporting guidelines for assessment issued by the RACP.
- 4.2 OTPs should fully and openly disclose all information that may be relevant to their assessment.
- 4.3 OTPs should follow the instructions and requirements received from RACP on their specialist assessment.
- 4.4 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this policy it is the responsibility of OTPs to supply adequate information to support their assessment by the RACP.

#### **5 Appeals**

- 5.1 Where decisions are made by an RACP body, the RACP Reconsideration, Review and Appeals Process applies.
- 5.2 Decisions made by medical regulatory bodies may be appealed through their processes.

#### **6 Implementation**

- 6.1 This policy will apply from 1 November 2016.

#### **7 Monitoring and evaluation**

- 7.1 This policy will be monitored and evaluated by the OTP Unit within the RACP Office of the Dean.

#### **8 Definitions**

MBA	Medical Board of Australia
MCNZ	Medical Council of New Zealand
OTP	Overseas Trained Physician or Paediatrician
RACP	The Royal Australasian College of Physicians
SIMG	Specialist International Medical Graduate
VEAB	Vocational Education Advisory Body