



Eligibility criteria for allied health professionals providing new Medicare services

Aboriginal Health Workers practising in the Northern Territory (NT) must be registered with the Aboriginal Health Workers Board of the NT; in other States and the Australian Capital Territory they must have been awarded a Certificate Level III (or higher) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health from a Registered Training Organisation that meets training standards set by the Australian National Training Authority's Australian Quality Training Framework.

Audiologists must be either a 'Full Member' of the Audiological Society of Australia Inc (ASA), who holds a 'Certificate of Clinical Practice' issued by the ASA; or an 'Ordinary Member – Audiologist' or 'Fellow Audiologist' of the Australian College of Audiology (ACAud).

Chiropractors must be registered with the Chiropractors (or Chiropractors and Osteopaths) Registration Board in the State or Territory in which they are practising.

Dietitians must be an 'Accredited Practising Dietitian' as recognised by the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA).

Mental Health Workers 'Mental health' can include services provided by members of five different allied health professional groups. 'Mental health workers' are drawn from the following:

- psychologists;
- mental health nurses;
- occupational therapists;
- social workers; and
- Aboriginal health workers.

Psychologists, occupational therapists and Aboriginal health workers are eligible in separate categories for these items.

A **mental health nurse** may qualify if they are –

- a registered mental health nurse in Tasmania or the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), if providing mental health services in Tasmania or the ACT; or
- a 'Credentialled Mental Health Nurse' as certified by the Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses (ANZCMHN), if providing mental health services in other States or the Northern Territory.

To be eligible to provide mental health services for the purposes of this item, a **social worker** must be a 'Member' of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW); and be certified by AASW as meeting the standards for mental health set out in AASW's 'Standards for Mental Health Social Workers 1999'.

Strengthening

Medicare

Occupational Therapists in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory must be registered with the Occupational Therapists Board in the State or Territory in which they are practising; in other States and the Australian Capital Territory, they must be a 'Full-time Member' or 'Part-time Member' of OT AUSTRALIA, the national body of the Australian Association of Occupational Therapists.

Osteopaths must be registered with the Osteopaths (or Chiropractors and Osteopaths) Registration Board in the State or Territory in which they are practising.

Physiotherapists must be registered with the Physiotherapists Registration Board in the State or Territory in which they are practising.

Podiatrists/Chiropodists in all States and the Australian Capital Territory must be registered with the Podiatrists Registration Board in the State or Territory in which they are practising. If practising in the Northern Territory, Podiatrists/Chiropodists must be registered with the Podiatrists Registration Board in any other State or the Australian Capital Territory, or be a "Full Member" of the Australian Podiatry Association (APodA) in any other State or the Australian Capital Territory.

Psychologists must be registered with the Psychologists Registration Board in the State or Territory in which they are practising.

Speech Pathologists practising in Queensland must be registered with the Speech Pathologist Board of Queensland. In all other States, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, they must be a 'Practising Member' of Speech Pathology Australia.