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*Health Professional Councils Authority*

## **Introduction of paramedicine to the National Scheme**

### **Registration as a paramedic**

#### **What does it mean to be registered?**

Paramedics will be a registered profession once they are included in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. This means that only a person who is registered can use the title 'paramedic'.

It also means that regulatory bodies in NSW, such as the Paramedicine Council of NSW and the Health Care Complaints Commission, will start to deal with complaints about paramedics. The types of complaints that these bodies deal with typically involve concerns or issues about professional standards and behaviour, health impairment and professional performance.

To become registered you will need to meet, and continue to meet, a number of nationally consistent standards. These include recency of practice, continuing professional development and appropriate professional indemnity insurance. In many cases, professional indemnity insurance will be provided by or through your employer.

## Who is eligible for registration?

To be registered as a paramedic you must be both qualified and suitable for registration. The Paramedicine Board of Australia has produced the following diagram to help determine if you are eligible:

## Am I eligible for registration?



The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) sets out eligibility requirements to be registered as a paramedic. In addition, the Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) has registration standards, which detail requirements of gaining and maintaining registration. While the final decision is with the Board, this is a good starting point to determine whether you are eligible for registration.

To be eligible for registration,  
you must be **qualified** and a **suitable** person

The National Law requires that, in order to be qualified for registration, you must satisfy one of the following:

You must **hold an approved qualification**  
These are compiled in a list determined by the Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board).

or

You must **hold an accepted qualification**  
These are various Diploma qualifications issued by the NSW Ambulance Service.

or

You must **satisfy the Board** that you **are qualified or competent** to be registered by:

holding an adequate qualification

or

holding a qualification and have also completed further study, training or supervised practice required by the Board

or

completing five years of acceptable practice in the last 10 years.

The National Law specifies that a suitable person to hold registration can meet all of the following criteria:

You have **no impairment** that, when practising, would be a risk to the health and safety of the public.

You have **no criminal history** that the Board deems as making you unsuitable for registration.

You **don't have outstanding regulatory issues** including disqualification, cancellation or suspension as a health care practitioner in any jurisdiction.

You have suitable **English language skills**.

You satisfy the Board's **recency of practice requirements**.

You satisfy the requirements of **all of the Board's registration standards** about suitability for registration.

You are not for **any other reason** not a **fit and proper person** or not **competent to practise safely**.

## What will it cost?

As a registered paramedic you will have to pay an annual registration fee. The Paramedicine Board has not yet determined the fees that will be payable.

This information will be available on the Board's [website](#) and we will include it in this newsletter when known.

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## How can I apply for registration?

The Paramedicine Board will determine the application process for registration. Information about the process will be widely advertised well before the application deadline.

Keep an eye out on the Board's [Registration](#) page for updates.

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## What happens if I am not registered on time?

The Paramedicine Board has advised as follows:

*... if a person has applied to the Board for registration before the participation day, but the Board has not decided the application, the applicant does not commit an offence against the National Law by calling themselves a paramedic while the application is being decided. That is, the person can take and use the title 'paramedic' and hold themselves out as a paramedic while the application is being decided.*

*Further, if an eligible paramedic submits a late application to the Board, the applicant can be assured that no enforcement action will be taken against them provided they submit their application within 90 days after the participation day.*

*There will be significant communication with the paramedic profession in the lead up to registration 'going live'. Every effort will be made to ensure that paramedics understand what they need to do and provide when applying for registration, and that employers also understand the process and the consequences if a person who is employed as a paramedic is not registered – particularly after the 90 day grace period expires.*

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## FAQs

The Paramedicine Board has a comprehensive set of [FAQs](#) on its website.

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## Stay updated

We will send out a newsletter with updates on a bimonthly basis. The next one will be distributed in mid April 2018.

The [Paramedicine Board of Australia](#) has further information about registration and regulation in general.

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## Useful links

[Paramedicine Board of Australia](#)

[Health Professional Councils Authority](#)

[Health Care Complaints Commission](#)

[NSW Legislation](#)

[Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#)

You are receiving this newsletter as part of the introduction of paramedicine to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The Health Professional Councils Authority is an important part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. We work in partnership with the NSW Health Professional Councils in the regulation of health practitioners in NSW.

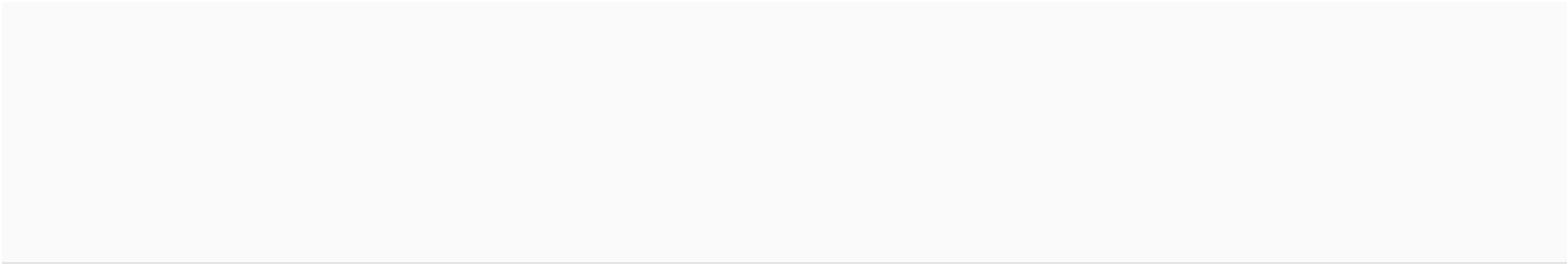
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**Our mailing address is:**

Health Professional Councils Authority  
Locked Bag 20, Haymarket NSW 1238

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