

# COUNCIL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARDS (AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND) INC. (“COTRB”)

## Attention – Employers of Occupational Therapists

The COTRB is approved by the Australian Government’s National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (AEI-NOOSR), and gazetted by the Minister of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, as the relevant assessing authority to provide assessment of qualifications of overseas educated occupational therapists for migration purposes and suitability to practise in Australia.

The Overseas Qualifications Assessment Committee (“OQAC”) of the COTRB is responsible for the administration of the assessment procedures and will liaise with Registration Boards, OT Australia and others as required.

Overseas trained persons must satisfy the following minimum criteria to be eligible for recognition by COTRB:

- Have completed a World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT) approved tertiary level education program leading to an award in occupational therapy, that is comparable to an Australian Bachelor degree (as per AEI-NOOSR Country Education Profiles).
- Are registered, licensed or otherwise officially recognised and in good standing as an occupational therapist in the country in which you were educated or practiced and,
- Have English as a first language (see definition below) OR completed your occupational therapy education in English OR have achieved a pass on an appropriate English language test - either a pass in the Occupational English Test (OET) or a pass in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum overall score of Band 7 in the academic level.

If found suitable for practice/migration in Australia following successful completion of the Stage I – Desk Top Audit these persons will generally need to undergo a practice audit of six (6) months duration.

The practice audit must be undertaken during the first 12 months of their employment in Australia.

The purpose of the practice audit is to promote competence of the overseas educated OT to practice in the Australian context. In most cases, audited practice is consistent with normal supervision/performance management procedures.

The specific aims of a program of audited practice are to enable the applicant to:

- Demonstrate their capacity to perform safely and competently as an occupational therapist in Australia.
- Obtain supervisor reports that can assist the applicant to demonstrate their competence in the practice of occupational therapy in Australia.
- Develop their knowledge and skills relevant to contemporary occupational therapy practice in Australia.
- Receive peer review of their practice skills and knowledge that can contribute to further learning, particularly in the Australian context.

The OQAC of COTRB will administer both the assessment of qualifications and the practice audit procedures. On successful completion of the practice audit the applicant will be issued with a Certificate of Practical Completion by COTRB. This must be presented to the relevant Registration Board before full registration is granted and/or to OT Australia for renewal of membership.

Employers of occupational therapists who are overseas trained are reminded that **completion of the practice audit is a compulsory requirement in all States and Territories of Australia.**

Further information about the COTRB and the assessment process can be obtained from the website [www.cotrb.sboards.com.au](http://www.cotrb.sboards.com.au).