

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING CHRONIC DISEASE ALLIED HEALTH (INDIVIDUAL & GROUP) MEDICARE SERVICES

Aboriginal Health Workers practising in the Northern Territory (NT) must be registered under the *Health Practitioners Act* (NT); in other States and the Australian Capital Territory they must have been awarded a Certificate Level III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (or an equivalent or higher qualification) by 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) and the holder of a 'Certificate of Clinical Practice' issued by the ASA; or an 'Ordinary Member – Audiologist' or a 'Fellow Audiologist' of the Australian College of Audiology (ACAud).

Chiropractors must be registered with the Chiropractors Board of Australia.

Diabetes Educators must be a Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE) as credentialed by the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA).

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

Exercise Physiologists must be an 'Accredited Exercise Physiologist' as accredited by the Australian Association for Exercise and Sports Science (AAESS).

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** must be a credentialed mental health nurse, as certified by the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

Mental health nurses who were registered in the ACT or Tasmania prior to the introduction of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) on 1 July 2010, will have until 31 December 2010 to be certified by the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses.

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 certified by AASW as meeting the standards for mental health set out in the document published by AASW titled 'Practice Standards for Mental Health Social Workers', as in force on 8 November 2008.

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 Osteopathy Board of Australia.

Physiotherapists must be registered with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia.

Podiatrists must be registered with the Podiatry Board of Australia.

Psychologists must hold General Registration with the Psychology Board of Australia.

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.

For more information call 132 150 or go to www.medicareaustralia.gov.au