



## Special Purpose Policy – Progress Requirements (Pathways post 1 July 2008)

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy paper is to outline the requirements of the Medical Board of Queensland (the Board) for the holders of Special Purpose registration to demonstrate “reasonable progress” towards General, Specialist or Special Purpose section 138 registrations, when seeking renewal of their registration.
- 1.2 Special Purpose registration for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) extends the privileges and obligations of registration to practitioners who do not meet the criteria for General or Specialist registration, but may be registered for a purpose mentioned in sections 132 to 136 of the *Medical Practitioners Registration Act 2001*.

### 2. SCOPE

- 2.1 All medical practitioners who obtained Special Purpose registration pursuant to sections 132 to 136 **from** 1 July 2008 are required to make “reasonable progress” towards General, Specialist or Special Purpose Section 138 registration.
- 2.2 For the purposes of this Policy the following sections are appropriate:
  - Section 132 – Postgraduate study or training undertaken by a specialist-in-training in their country of qualification undertaking training or obtaining experience in Australia not available in their country of training, for a short period – normally up to one year but can in exceptional circumstances be extended to two years, and includes opportunities such as exchange fellowships
  - Section 133 – For IMGs wishing to undertake supervised training for AMC examinations
  - Section 134 – For medical teaching or research and associated practices
  - Section 135 – For Practice in an Area of Need
  - Section 136 – For overseas trained specialists who wish to undertake study or training to obtain an Australian qualification in a specialty
- 2.3 Medical practitioners who were approved Special Purpose registration **prior** to 1 July 2008 are subject to the Special Purpose Policy – Progress Requirements (Categories pre 1 July 2008).
- 2.4 Progress requirements do **not** apply to:
  - medical practitioners who hold Fellowship to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (Section 138)
  - medical practitioners registered in the Public Interest (Section 137)
  - short term (five weeks or less) special purpose registrants (Section 156B)

### 3. LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

- 3.1 Section 140B of the *Medical Practitioners Registrations Act 2001* (Act) specifies that the Board must impose a condition requiring a Special Purpose registrant to apply for General, Specialist or Special Purpose section 138 registrations.
- 3.2 Section 140B of the Act further determines the maximum length of continuous registration a Special Purpose registrant may hold before being required to hold General, Specialist or Special Purpose section 138 registration. The following table specifies the timeframe provided per Special Purpose category:

Special Purpose Categories	Mandatory timeframes within which the registrant must apply for General, Specialist or Section 138 Special Purpose Registration
Section 132	4 years
Section 133	3 years
Section 134	4 years
Section 135	4 years
Section 136	2 years.

- 3.3 When considering an annual Special Purpose renewal application the Board must, in accordance with Section 145, be satisfied that the registrant has made “reasonable progress” towards General, Specialist or Special Purpose section 138 registration.
- 3.4 If the applicant cannot demonstrate “reasonable progress” the Board can refuse to renew Special Purpose registration in accordance with section 75 of the Act
- 3.5 Section 44 of the Act enables an applicant to qualify for General registration if the applicant has passed the examination set by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) or has been certified by the AMC as having skills, knowledge and training of a standard suitable for General registration.
- 3.6 Section 111(1) of the Act enables an applicant to qualify for Specialist registration if they hold:
- an Australian or New Zealand qualification in a specialty that is prescribed, or
  - a qualification in an equivalent specialty, or based on similar competencies that are required.
- 3.7 An applicant is eligible for Special Purpose registration under section 138 of the Act if they have been awarded Fellowship to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

### 4 PATHWAYS

- 4.1 A nationally consistent assessment process for international medical graduates commenced on 1 July 2008 and is comprised of the:
- [Competent Authority Pathway](#)
  - [Standard \(Non Specialist\) Pathway](#), and
  - [Specialist Pathway](#).

- 4.2 The Competent Authority and Standard (Non Specialist) Pathways are pathways to the Australian Medical Council (AMC) Certificate and therefore General registration.
- 4.3 The Specialist Pathway is a pathway for overseas trained specialists and specialists-in-training (an IMG who is a specialist-in-training in any country other than Australia) who are seeking fellowship of a specialist medical college and therefore Specialist registration to enable them to practise in their field of specialty.
- 4.4 Special Purpose category Sections 132, 134 (Deemed Specialist), 135 (Deemed Specialist) and 136 can proceed down the Specialist Pathway only.
- 4.5 Special Purpose category Section 133 can proceed down the Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway only.
- 4.6 Special Purpose categories 134 and 135 proceed down either the Competent Authority Pathway or the Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway.

## 5. PROGRESS REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The requirement for “proof of progress” differs according to the pathway each registrant is following.
- 5.2 The table(s) (below) specifies the Board’s requirements for each of the pathways.
- 5.3 Applicants must lodge evidence of satisfying the requirements together with their application for renewal of Special Purpose registration.
- 5.4 Applications for renewal may be refused if the Board considers the registrant has not satisfactorily met all the requirements at the end of each corresponding year of registration.

Pathway	Progress Point	Reasonable progress requirements for registration renewal
<b>Competent Authority Pathway</b>	At end of 1st year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completed an orientation program within 1 month of commencing employment (Form 107)</li> <li>completed a 3 and 6 month Registrant Assessment Report (Form 103) with their approved supervisor; and</li> <li>Proof of Advanced Standing</li> </ul>
	At end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completed 12 months continuous supervised clinical practice and applied to the Board for confirmation of 12 months satisfactory clinical practice (Form 400); and</li> <li>applied to the AMC for an AMC Certificate</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>commenced a performance improvement plan approved by the Board.</li> </ul>
	At end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>received the AMC certificate; and</li> <li>obtained General registration.</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the registrant has still not completed 12 months of satisfactory clinical practice in Queensland the renewal application will be referred to the Board for consideration of a final year’s registration.</li> </ul>
	At end of 4 <sup>th</sup> year of registration	The registrant must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>received an AMC certificate; and</li> <li>applied for General registration.</li> </ul> <p><b>No further Special Purpose registration renewal applications will be approved.</b></p>

Pathway	Progress Point	Reasonable progress requirements for registration renewal
<b>Standard (Non Specialist) Pathway</b>	At end of 1st year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>passed the AMC MCQ</li> <li>completed an orientation program within 1 month of commencing employment; and</li> <li>completed a 3 and 6 month Registrant Assessment Report with the approved supervisor.</li> </ul>
	At end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completed a 12 month Registrant Assessment Report with the approved supervisor; and</li> <li>enrolled to sit the AMC Clinical Examination OR is currently undertaking AMC accredited workplace-based assessment.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 133 Special Purpose registrants are required to have sat the AMC Clinical examination</li> </ul>
	At end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sat the AMC Clinical examination OR is currently undertaking AMC accredited workplace-based assessment; and</li> <li>has developed a plan to rectify any short comings which have been identified following the AMC Clinical examination or workplace based assessments.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 133 Special purpose registrants must have successfully completed the clinical component of the AMC examination and applied for general registration.</li> </ul>
	At end of 4 <sup>th</sup> year of registration	The registrant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>must have successfully completed the clinical component of the AMC examination; and</li> <li>must have applied for General registration.</li> </ul> <p><b>No further Special Purpose registration renewal applications will be approved</b></p>
Pathway	Progress Point	Reasonable progress requirements for registration renewal
<b>Specialist Pathway*</b>	At end of 1st year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completed an orientation program within 1 month of commencing employment;</li> <li>completed a 3 and 6 month Registrant Assessment Report with the approved supervisor; and</li> <li>satisfactorily complied with all requirements of the specialty college or planning to return home.</li> </ul>
	At end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completed a 12 month Registrant Assessment Report with the approved supervisor; and</li> <li>satisfactorily complied with all requirements of the specialty college.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 136 Special Purpose registrants must have successfully completed all specialty College requirements and applied for Specialist registration.</li> </ul>
	At end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>continued to undertake 12 monthly Registrant Assessment Report with the approved supervisor; and</li> <li>satisfactorily complied with all requirements of the specialty college.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 132 Special Purpose registrants must have successfully completed all specialty College requirements and obtained Specialist registration or be returning to their home country.</li> </ul>
	At end of 4 <sup>th</sup> year of registration	Provide evidence that the registrant has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>successfully complied with all requirements of the specialty college</li> <li>must apply for Specialist registration</li> </ul> <p><b>No further Special Purpose registration renewal applications will be approved</b></p>

\* - Reasonable progress requirements for general practitioners towards Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners or Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine are under development due to the ongoing review of the Specialist Pathway at a national level.

## **6 RELATED POLICIES AND FORMS**

All forms and policies can be found on the Board's website at;

<http://www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au/resources/>

Below is a list of the main relevant forms and policies.

### **6.1 Special Purpose Policies including:**

- [Non Specialist \(Standard Pathway\)](#)
- [Area of Need](#)
- [Competent Authority](#)
- [Specialist Pathway \(under development\)](#)

### **6.2 Special Purpose Forms including:**

- [Registration Special Purpose \(M1SP\)](#)
- [Competent Authority - Eligibility for Current Special Purpose Registrants - Form \(400\)](#)
- [Employers -Employer \(Form 100\)](#)
- [Registrant Assessment Report \(Form 103\)](#)

## **7 POLICY REVIEW**

### **7.1 This policy will be regularly reviewed, with amendments to occur as required.**

Policy approved by the Medical Board of Queensland at meeting held on 24 June 2008