



# Australian College of Care Workers

## **POLICY ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS MEMBERS OF ACCW (A transition period of three (3) years will be provided from October 2019 to September 2022)**

### **Purpose**

All applicants for registration to demonstrate English language skills to be suitable for registration from September 2022. However, there are English language skills an applicant will need for initial registration.

This policy sets out how an applicant for registration can demonstrate to the Board that their competency in speaking and communicating in English is sufficient to hold an ACCW License to Care Practise.

The policy applies to all applicants for initial registration. It does not apply if you are applying for non-practising registration or if you are a student.

### **English language proficiency**

If you are applying for initial registration you must demonstrate your English language competency in one of the following ways:

1. English is your primary language and you have undertaken and satisfactorily completed:
  - a. all of your primary and secondary education which was taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country, and
  - b. tertiary qualifications in the relevant Care Practice, which you are relying on to support your eligibility for registration which were taught and assessed solely in English.OR
2. You have a combination of secondary education and tertiary qualifications, where you have undertaken and satisfactorily completed:
  - a. at least two years of your secondary education which was taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country, and
  - b. tertiary qualifications in the relevant professional discipline, which you are relying on to support your eligibility for registration, which were taught and assessed solely in English in a recognised country.OR
3. You have undertaken and satisfactorily completed at least six years' (full time equivalent) continuous education taught and assessed solely in English, in any of the recognised countries, which includes tertiary qualifications in the relevant professional discipline which you are relying on to support your eligibility for registration.  
OR
4. You achieve the required minimum scores in one of the following English language tests and meet the requirements for test results specified in this policy:
  - a. the IELTS (academic module) with a minimum overall score of 7 and a

minimum score of 7 in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).

- b. the OET with a minimum score of B in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking).
- c. the PTE Academic with a minimum overall score of 65 and a minimum score of 65 in each of the four communicative skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking).
- d. the TOEFL iBT with a minimum total score of 94 and the following minimum score in each section of the test: 24 for listening, 24 for reading, 27 for writing, and 23 for speaking.
- e. other English language tests approved by the Board from time to time and published on the Board's website with the required minimum scores.

### Test results

The following requirements apply to the English language test results:

- a. Test results will be accepted if they were obtained within the two years before the date you lodge your application for registration;
- b. have been in continuous employment as a Care Worker in Aged Care, Mental Health, Disability, Community and other care-related facilities;
- c. have been continuously registered in a Board approved program of study (which commenced within 12 months of the date of the test) and undertook subjects in each semester, with no break from study apart from the education provider's scheduled holidays, and
- d. lodge your application for registration within 12 months of completing the Board approved program of study.

### Exemptions

1. The Board may grant an exemption to this policy when you apply for limited registration in the following circumstances:
  - a. to perform a demonstration in clinical techniques
  - b. to undertake management duties that involve limited or no patient contact, or
  - c. to undertake a period of studies or supervised training while working in an appropriately supported environment that will ensure client safety is not compromised.
2. Conditions will generally apply to these exemptions, which will require supervision by a registered nurse.
3. The Board reserves the right at any time to revoke an exemption and/or require an applicant to undertake a specified English language test.

### More information

1. Care Workers who meet the English language skills policy on the basis of results from an English language test will be asked to declare that they have continued to use English as their primary language when they apply to move from non-practising to practising registration.
2. Further information regarding the evidence that applicants must provide to the Board to prove that they meet this policy is set out in the relevant

application form.

3. Your test results will be verified independently with the test provider.
4. You are responsible for the cost of English language tests.

## Definitions

Board approved program of study means an accredited program of study approved for Care Workers. The list of approved programs of study on the ACCW website.

Continuous employment means working the equivalent of at least 26 weeks per year.

IELTS means the International English Language Testing System.

Initial registration means:

- a Care Worker applying for registration in Australia to work in Aged Care, Mental Health, Disability, Community and other care-related facilities profession for the first time; or
- a Care Worker applying for registration (including moving from non-practising and who has not used English as their primary language for a period of greater than five years; or
- a Care Worker who currently holds limited registration on the basis that they were granted an exemption from this policy in the limited circumstances described under Exemptions and who is applying for another type of registration.

OET means Occupational English Test.

Care Practising registration means provisional, general, specialist or limited registration.

Primary language means the language primarily used for reading, writing, listening, and speaking and the language known best and most comfortable with.

PTE Academic means the Pearson Test of English Academic

Recognised country means one of the following countries:

- Australia
- Canada
- New Zealand
- Republic of Ireland
- South Africa
- United Kingdom
- United States of America.

Secondary education means Australian school years 7 through to 12, even where year 7 is classified as part of primary school in a particular state or territory.

Six years (full time equivalent) continuous education means education over a period of six consecutive calendar years without a break from study apart from the education institutions' (e.g. school or university) scheduled holidays.

Student means a student currently registered in a recognised qualification to related to care practice in aged care, mental health, disability, community and other care related facilities.

Test results means the official results provided by the English language test provider.

TOEFL iBT means the Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based test.

Care-related facilities include:

- Supported residential services
- Independent living centres
- Home and community centres
- Day Care Centers
- Respite Care services
- Retirement village
- Leisure and lifestyle
- Hospitality care workers (laundry, cleaning and food handling)
- Any field where care is provided, for example; care to veterans, dementia and palliative care.
- Home Support Programme and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program.

### Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.

Effective: October 2019