

Introduction

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (Act) (s 23) provides that the Board may grant limited registration to a person who does not have all the qualifications necessary for full registration but has such qualifications in veterinary science and experience in the practice of veterinary science to justify the granting of limited registration.

Limited registration may be granted for one or more of the following purposes Act (s 23(2)):

- (a) To enable a person to carry on the practice of veterinary science for a specific purpose
- (b) To enable a person to carry on the practice of veterinary science for a limited time
- (c) To enable a person with a qualification referred to in the Act (s 21(1)(b)(i)) to carry on the practice of veterinary science until the person has passed the Australasian Veterinary Examination (AVE).

Under the Act (s 23(3)) the Board may impose conditions on limited registration in accordance with the Act (s 19(3)(a)) including a requirement for supervision or a restriction on the types of restricted acts of veterinary science which may be performed.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define under what circumstances the Board will grant limited registration to applications under the Act (s 23) and what conditions will likely be imposed on successful applicants.

Policy

1. Veterinary graduates who do not possess all the qualifications necessary for full registration under Act (s 21) may be granted limited registration under Act (s 23) with conditions imposed under Act (s 19(3)(a)).
2. Applicants must provide a specific purpose and a specified time (up to 12 months) for which they require limited registration.
3. Where the relevant qualification has not been taught in English, the applicant must provide proof of meeting English language requirements as outlined by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC).
4. The Board will generally consider a suitable specific purpose to include any of the following:
 - a. The gaining of knowledge, skills and experience necessary to assist with successful completion of the final (clinical) examination of the AVE (or equivalent non-award qualification) and after successful completion of the English language test requirements and preliminary examination of the AVE (or equivalent knowledge test)
 - b. The completion of a course of further study requiring the performance of restricted acts of veterinary science such as a structured veterinary internship, residency or externship program approved by the Board
 - c. The completion of an animal research project under the supervision of a person who holds an authority under the *Animal Research Act 1985* (s 25)
 - d. Where there is an identified need and no person capable of being granted full registration is available who has the necessary skills, qualifications and experience to fulfil the role. Applicants for this purpose must have held a primary veterinary qualification for at least 3 years.
 - e. Other specific purposes as determined by the Board but not including for the purpose of employment which would otherwise require the applicant to possess all the qualifications necessary for full registration.
5. The Board will generally consider a limited time period of up to 12 months with a further period of registration available upon application should it be required in order to complete the specific purpose.

Procedure

1. Applications for limited registration under the Act (s 23) must be submitted online with accompanying documents as required for applications under the Act (s 21(1)(a)) together with:
 - a. Full curriculum vitae
 - b. Letter from the potential employer endorsing the applicant or from the training provider confirming the enrolment and detailing the training program or other available supporting evidence as appropriate
 - c. The proposed supervising veterinarian will be required to agree to act as a supervisor (online)
2. The Board may grant limited registration to applicants with suitable skills, qualifications and experience in order to complete a specific purpose for up to a period of 12 months, and without limiting the conditions on registration, with the following conditions pursuant to the Act (s 19(3)(a)):
 - a. Restricted acts of veterinary science must only be performed as an employee of an approved business
 - b. Restricted acts of veterinary science must only be performed under the supervision of approved veterinarians with full or specialist registration not subject to conditions
 - c. Restricted acts of veterinary science must be limited to an area of practice approved by the Board
 - d. Approval must be sought from the Board prior to any proposed change in employment circumstances.

3. The Act (s 35(f)) defines a failure to provide adequate supervision as unsatisfactory professional conduct. If required, the Board will determine the appropriate level of supervision required based on the qualifications and experience of the registrant and the type and circumstances of restricted acts of veterinary science performed to ensure adherence to the object of the Act.
4. The Board will consult with the Registrar of another Australian jurisdiction prior to granting limited registration to an applicant whose primary place of residence is in NSW and proposed primary place of practice is in this other Australian jurisdiction.
5. Registrants seeking an extension to the period of limited registration are required to participate in CPD on a pro-rata basis and to provide certified copies of validation of successful completion of structured CPD requirements (as per CPD policy non-award qualification candidates and registrants completing formal training courses are exempt from CPD requirements)
6. The above procedure does not limit or otherwise affect the operation of the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* or the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997*.

Monitoring

1. The Board is required to review the list of universities, colleges and institutions accredited by the AVBC at least annually and therefore identify applicants who do not have the qualifications required for full registration under the Act (s 21).
2. The Board may conduct an audit of limited registrants and unsuccessful applicants for limited registration for the purpose of reviewing this policy.
3. The Board may review a list of applicants granted limited registration, the duration of their limited registration, and details provided in any Annual Returns from limited registrants for the purpose of monitoring and reviewing this policy.
4. The Board will review the specific purposes stated above for the granting of limited registration as required and consult with the AVBC, other Australian Boards, the New Zealand Board, and the profession more widely, including the AVA, as required.

Training and Communication

The Registrar is responsible for ensuring that all persons who are involved in making a decision in relation to the granting of limited registration under the Act (s 23) receive training in the implementation of this policy.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Board must comply with the Code of Conduct for Board Members in relation to decisions regarding the granting of limited registration.

Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually or as required to ensure that it remains appropriate to the operations of the Board and compliant with the relevant legislation.