

RACGP STANDARDS FOR GENERAL PRACTICES (4TH EDITION) FACT SHEET**AHPRA REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKERS AND
ABORIGINAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**

Do Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners require registration with AHPRA?

Answer

An individual working as an Aboriginal Health Worker is not required to be registered with AHPRA.

An individual working as an “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner”, “Aboriginal Health Practitioner” or “Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner” is required to be registered with AHPRA

Rationale

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of AHPRA notes that only those people who are working as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner and are required by their employer to use the title “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner”, “Aboriginal Health Practitioner” or “Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner”, will require registration from 1 July 2012.

After 1 July 2012, those Aboriginal Health Workers who are not required by their employer to use the title “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner”, “Aboriginal Health Practitioner” or “Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner”, are not required to be registered, and can continue to work using their current titles (for example, “Aboriginal Health Worker”, “Drug and Alcohol Worker” and “Mental Health Worker”).

Therefore:

- an individual working as an Aboriginal Health Worker **is not required** to be registered with AHPRA; and
- an individual working as an “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner”, “Aboriginal Health Practitioner” or “Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner” **is required** to be registered with AHPRA

There is one exception to this, however. In the Northern Territory there is no distinction between an Aboriginal Health Practitioner (“Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner”, “Aboriginal Health Practitioner” or “Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner”) and an Aboriginal Health Worker. As such, individuals employed in the Northern Territory under these titles are required to be registered with AHPRA.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of AHPRA provides further information on this at <http://www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au/Registration.aspx>.