

TITLE: **Qualifications for General Registration under sections 44(1)(b) and (c) of the *Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001***

APPLICATION:

This policy only applies to the assessment of qualifications of applicants for general registration under sections 44(1)(b) and 44(1)(c) of the *Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001* ("the Act").

The policy does not apply to applicants holding qualifications prescribed in schedule 1 of the *Speech Pathologists Registration Regulation 2001* ("the Regulation"). The policy does not apply to applicants for special purpose registration.

BACKGROUND:

The Speech Pathologists Board of Queensland ("the Board") has the function of assessing applications for registration under the Act having regard to the broader objects of the Act specified in section 7.

In undertaking this function, the Board must ensure that registration is only conferred on persons who are appropriately qualified to practise the profession.

LEGISLATION:

Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001

Section 44 (1) provides that -

"An applicant for general registration is qualified for general registration if -...

- (a) the applicant has a qualification prescribed under a regulation;*
- (b) the applicant has a qualification that is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to that required for, a current Australian or New Zealand qualification; or*
- (c) the applicant has passed a qualifying examination in the profession set by or for or recognised by, the Board".*

Section 44(2) provides that

"In deciding whether subsection (1)(b) is satisfied, the Board may have regard to the following -

- (a) the advice and recommendation of:*
 - (1) an entity recognised by the Board as competent to assess qualifications in the profession; or*
 - (2) an entity responsible for accrediting courses, or accrediting institutions to educate persons for the profession;*
- (b) the attributes of the course leading to the applicant's qualification".....*

Section 44(3) defines “*current Australian or New Zealand qualification*” to mean an Australian or New Zealand qualification mentioned in a regulation made under subsection 44(1)(a).

Speech Pathologists Registration Regulation 2001

Schedule 1 of the Regulation sets out the qualifications that are prescribed for the purpose of section 44(1)(a) of the Act.

POLICY:

1. All qualifications recognised by the Board as equivalent to a “current Australian or New Zealand” qualification (as defined in the Act) are generally published on the Board’s website within 10 days of recognition and are also available in printed form on request.
2. The Board has approved, as a transitional arrangement, that it will, until 31 January 2012, continue to recognise for the purposes of section 44(1)(b) of the Act, the following Australian qualifications that were accepted for registration under the *Speech Pathologists Act 1979*.

B SP PATH (AUDIOL) QLD
B SP THY QLD
B APP SC (SP & HEARING) WAIT
B SC (SP & HEARING) CURTIN WA
B APP SC (SP PATH) CUMB NSW
B APP SC (SP PATH) LINC VIC
B APP SC (SP PATH) SACAE
B SP PATH FLINDERS

3. In assessing whether an applicant holds a qualification that is substantially equivalent to a current Australian or New Zealand qualification (as defined), the Board takes into account all qualifications in speech pathology held by the applicant.
4. An applicant for registration will only be eligible for an examination under section 44(1)(c) if the applicant meets all the following criteria. The applicant:
 - holds a qualification in speech pathology and/or has worked as a speech pathologist outside Queensland
 - does not hold a prescribed qualification
 - does not hold a qualification that is recognised as substantially equivalent to a current Australian or New Zealand qualification.
5. Also, the Board may examine an applicant under section 44(1)(c) even though Speech Pathology Australia has determined that the applicant’s qualifications are not substantially equivalent to a current Australian or New Zealand qualification.
6. The qualifying examination will be administered by one or more speech pathologists considered by the Board as competent to conduct the examination. The speech pathologists may be Board members.