



File No: MR39

Policy topic: **ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY POLICY**

Adopted: 3 July 2007

Amended: 15 November 2007

1.0 Background to Policy

The Medical Radiation Technologists Board of Queensland is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that registrants practise in accordance with the *Medical Radiation Technologists Registration Act 2001* (“the Act”). Section 45 of the Act requires the Board to consider that an applicant is “fit to practise the profession”. This includes ensuring that only applicants who are competent, have a sound knowledge of the English Language, and are of good character, are registered as Medical Radiation Technologists.

Many applicants seeking to become registered as Medical Radiation Technologists come from non-English speaking backgrounds and the level of English language competency varies greatly.

A high level of English language proficiency is essential to enable Medical Radiation Technologists to communicate with clients, other Medical Radiation Technologists and other professionals, to write reports that often deal with complex matters and to maintain professional standards.

2.0 English Language Model

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is currently used to assess the English Language ability of applicants from non-English speaking backgrounds.

The IELTS was developed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, The British Council and the IDP Education Australia. The test is administered at least once a month by IELTS Australia and The British Council at over 230 centres worldwide.

Applicants should contact IELTS Australia on all matters relating to the administration of the IELTS English test, examination dates and its associated procedures. The IELTS English Test is held throughout Australia as well as overseas. The contact for IELTS Australia is:

Tel: + 612 6285 8222
Website: www.ielts.org
Email: ielts@idp.edu.au

3.0 POLICY

Applicants for registration as a Medical Radiation Technologist in Queensland, for whom English is not their primary language, need to submit evidence to the Board of competency in both oral and written communication in English, as demonstrated by having completed the IELTS examination (Academic module) to the following standard:

- The Board requires the applicant to have achieved a minimum score of seven (7) in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) of the IELTS examination.
- Results must have been obtained within two (2) years prior to applying for registration.
- An IELTS Test Report Form more than two years old will be accepted as evidence of present level of ability if accompanied by proof that a candidate has actively maintained employment as a Medical Radiation Technologist in a country where English is the predominant language, for at least 12 months in the three years prior to application for registration.
- Alternative English proficiency tests that will be accepted by the Board are:
 - a. Completed and obtained an overall pass in the Occupational English Test (OET) administered by the Centre for Adult Education with grades A or B only in each of the four components; or
 - b. A pass in the Professional Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) in the United Kingdom.

NOTE:

1. **The applicant is responsible for the cost of the English tests.**
2. **Pass results in each component of either the IELTS or OET must be obtained at the one sitting, ie pass results in a module from a previous attempt at either examination cannot be carried forward to a subsequent sitting which, when combined, would give an overall pass in the examination.**

4.0 GROUNDS FOR EXEMPTION

The Board may consider an exemption when:

- 4.1 the applicant can provide evidence of at least three years practice of the profession as a registered Medical Radiation Technologist (or its equivalent in the country of practice) using English as the primary means of communication; or
- 4.2 an applicant who has undertaken secondary schooling in Australia or New Zealand, can produce evidence of:
 - Certified copy of final secondary school certificate demonstrating a satisfactory pass in English, or non Queensland equivalent recognized by the Board.
- 4.3 if applicant has achieved a minimum score of seven (7) in each of the four components (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) of the IELTS examination prior to studying medical radiation technology full time at a University in a country where English is the primary means of communication.