

OCCUPATIONAL REGISTRATION PROTOCOL

1. Before introducing new occupational registration where none currently exists or undertaking major revision of, or extension to, the regulation of an occupation, jurisdictions should be satisfied that a case exists to regulate. Jurisdictions should have regard to requirements or guidance in their own jurisdiction regarding the development of policy and/or regulatory proposals, and to the *COAG Principles and Guidelines for National Standard Setting and Regulatory Action*.
2. Where a case for action has been established, jurisdictions should consider developing approaches to maximise national consistency when considering:
 - i. moving into registration of an occupation where registration exists in another jurisdiction or jurisdictions;
 - ii. undertaking major revisions to or extensions of existing occupational registration arrangements; and
 - iii. moving into an area of occupational registration which has not previously been registered by any other jurisdiction.
3. For any of the situations described under 2(i) to 2(iii) above, prior to and while developing an occupational registration regime, jurisdictions should consult with other jurisdictions, training authorities and industry, with a view to achieving nationally-consistent:
 - scopes of work authorised by registration; and
 - definitions, types or classes of registration.
4. In consultations carried out under 3 above, jurisdictions should have regard to nationally-applicable skills and/or competency standards.
5. For any new occupational registration which spans more than one jurisdiction, the relevant jurisdictions will develop a ministerial declaration under section 32 of the Mutual Recognition Act which will be published in the normal way.
6. Where jurisdictions are unable to agree on nationally-consistent approaches to occupational registration, jurisdictions should make the Cross Jurisdictional Review Forum aware of the registration proposal and any potential of the approach to impede the effective mutual recognition of registered occupations.
7. This protocol shall not be taken to require any jurisdiction to introduce registration for an occupation where none currently exists, nor increase the level of regulation of an occupation, nor enable any jurisdiction to have a veto over occupational registration arrangements applying in another jurisdiction.