

# AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND BOARD OF PERFUSION Overseas Trained Perfusionists Policy

## DEFINITIONS

1. Where a term is defined in Clause 2 as having a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or expression have a corresponding meaning.
2. In this policy the following definitions apply:
  - a) **ANZBP** means the board established by the Executive Committee of the ANZCP, under rule 80 of the ANZCP Rules, for the purposes of (amongst other things) Certifying and Re-Certifying Clinical Perfusionists;
  - b) **ANZCP** means the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusion (also known as The Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists) ABN 59 896 655 656;
  - c) **ANZCP Rules** means the “Rules of The Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists Incorporated” \*, as approved by the ANZCP on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024, or any subsequent superseding document by that name;
  - d) **Business Day** means a day which is not a Saturday or Sunday, or a public holiday in Victoria in Australia;
  - e) **Certification** means the process of becoming certified by the ANZCP under the Certification Policy;
  - f) **Certified Copy** has the same meaning as that phrase in the Certification Policy;
  - g) **Clinical Perfusionist** means a member of the clinical perfusion profession;
  - h) **Competency Standards** means the ANZCP Competency Standards\* set by the ANZBP for the purpose of determining the combination of skills, knowledge, attitudes, values and abilities that underpin effective performance as a Clinical Perfusionist, and which form the basis for determining competency for the purposes of Certification and Re-Certification;
  - i) **Initial Certification** means the process of an OTP becoming certified as a Clinical Perfusionist (OTP ANZ) by the ANZCP in accordance with this Policy and the Certification Policy;
  - j) **OTP** means an overseas trained Clinical Perfusionist, being someone who trained outside of Australia or New Zealand;
  - k) **OTP candidate** means an OTP applying for recognition under this OTP policy.
  - l) **OTP Policy** means this policy;
  - m) **Overseas Certifying Body** means a government, or perfusion-specific professional association, which certifies Clinical Perfusionists in the overseas jurisdiction in which the Clinical Perfusionist practices;
  - n) **Recognised Competent Authority** means an Overseas Certifying Body or Training Institution that the ANZBP has determined is substantially equivalent to the ANZCP in its entry standards, assessment methods, recertification and governance.
  - o) **Re-Certification** means the process of being re-certified by the ANZCP against the standards described in the ANZCP’s Certification Policy. This may be for a Clinical Perfusionist who is seeking to move from Provisional Clinical Perfusion status to

unconditional Certification, or for a Clinical Perfusionist who is fully Certified at the time of the application.

- p) **Category A Pathway** for an OTP who has received training from a Recognised Competent Authority
- q) **Category B Pathway** for an OTP who does not meet the definition of the Category A Pathway.
- r) **Policy Timeline** means that the OTP pathway is a time-limited process, to ensure recency of practice and timely completion of the Certification process.
- s) **English Language Skills Standard** means the current NASRHP Registration Standard: English Language Skills, including any associated guidance by NASRHP. (see Annexure A – English Language Skills Requirement)

## PURPOSE

- 3. The purpose of this Policy is to:
  - a) provide governance and a pathway for eligible overseas trained perfusionists to attain OTP Certification (OTP (ANZ)) in clinical perfusion, by confirming that regardless of the country they trained in they can demonstrate that they meet the standards set by the ANZCP for Certification, recognising that ANZBP has had no oversight of the candidate's initial education and training program and;
  - b) assess the candidates to provide assurance to the employing hospital, Head of Department of Perfusion and the broader Australian and New Zealand communities that an Overseas Trained Perfusionist is being systematically and independently assessed for safety to practice before being recommended for certification, and;
- 4. This Policy operates in tandem with the requirements of the ANZCP Certification Policy which governs:
  - a) Evidence required for Initial Certification which is common across all Initial Certification applications;
  - b) Decisions on whether to Certify and the consequences and appeals processes applicable to those decisions; and
  - c) All matters relating to Re-Certification.

## SCOPE

- 5. This Policy applies to all Overseas Trained Perfusionists who wish to be certified by the ANZCP and recognised with OTP (ANZ) status.
  - a) As the ANZBP has no direct oversight of the initial training programs completed overseas, all practitioners assessed under this Policy are eligible for OTP (ANZ) Certification status. OTP (ANZ) Certification confirms that the individual has been assessed as meeting ANZCP standards via the OTP pathway; it does not imply that their original training program is accredited or endorsed by ANZBP, nor that they are graduates of the ANZBP-accredited training program.

- b) CCP (ANZ) Certification status is reserved for practitioners who complete the ANZBP-accredited training program in which ANZBP has oversight of the curriculum, clinical milestones and assessment of core clinical competencies over the full training period. An Overseas Trained Perfusionist who wishes to obtain CCP (ANZ) status must enter and successfully complete the ANZBP-accredited local training program.
- c) Patient safety and public protection are the primary considerations in all decisions made under this Policy. Where there is doubt, ANZBP will act cautiously in favour of safety.

## RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

- 6. This policy should be read in conjunction with:
  - a) ANZCP Certification Policy
  - b) ANZBP Clinical Supervision Policy
  - c) ANZBP Training Accreditation Policy
  - d) ANZCP Standards and Guidelines
  - e) Code of Ethical Standards and Professional Conduct
  - f) ANZBP Examination Policy

## APPLICATION PHASES AND DOCUMENTATION

- 7. All OTP candidate applications follow a three-stage process:
  - a) Phase 1: Eligibility and Documentation
  - b) Phase 2: Clinical Skills Assessment
    - i. Category A Pathway
    - ii. Category B Pathway
  - c) Phase 3: OTP Board Examinations
- 8. The OTP applicant is responsible for submitting all documentation, that meets the standards such as certified copies, at each stage of the process. A resubmission fee may be required to reprocess the application phase, and delay processing times of the application.
- 9. As per Clauses 10-12, once eligibility in Phase 1 is determined, OTP candidates are allocated to one of two category pathways in the Phase 2 (Clinical Skills Assessment):
  - a) Category A: Recognised Competent Authority OTPs
  - b) Category B: All other OTPs

## RECOGNISED COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

10. As at the date of this policy, the ANZBP recognises the following Overseas Certifying Bodies or Training Institutions as **Recognised Competent Authorities**:
- American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion (ABCP) – United States of America
  - Canadian Society of Clinical Perfusion (CSCP) - Canada
  - Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists (SCPS) - United Kingdom
11. An OTP candidate who holds current certification (CCP US, CCP UK and CCP Canada) from one of the Recognised Competent Authorities listed in Clause 10 is a Category A OTP and is eligible for the Category A pathway.
12. An OTP candidate who does not hold current certification from one of the Recognised Competent Authorities listed in clause 10 is a Category B OTP and is eligible for the Category B pathway.

## PHASE 1 – ELIGIBILITY AND DOCUMENTATION

13. The sections of Phase 1 of this policy include:
- Eligibility Requirements
  - Interview
  - Academic Standards and Evidence
  - Translated Documents Requirement
  - Application Processing, Handling and Outcome

## PHASE 1: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

14. An OTP applicant must provide Certified Copies of the following documentation and upload via the online application portal:
- Academic Qualifications:**
    - Certified copies of all relevant tertiary qualifications and academic transcripts, that meet the academic standards described in Clauses 21-23 of this Policy, and translated documents required described in Clause 24 of this Policy.
  - Overseas Certification and Good Standing:**
    - A certified copy of their current certification from the Overseas Certifying Body.
    - An official letter from the Overseas Certifying Body or Recognised Competent Authority, dated within 6 months of the application which certifies that the OTP candidate;
      - has held this certification for a minimum of 36 months
      - is currently certified and in good standing,
      - meets competency, continuing professional development, recency of practice standards
      - is not subject to any known conduct, ethical or legal issues relevant to Certification.

- iii. For countries where there is not an Overseas Certifying Body and hence no official certification, an official letter from the relevant Ministry of Health for Clause 14 b) (i) and (ii) may be assessed by the ANZBP.

**c) Clinical Case Log and Recency of Practice:**

- i. A logbook or deidentified case record log that demonstrates a minimum of 150 cardiopulmonary bypass cases performed as the primary perfusionist in the 36-month period immediately prior to application (minimum 50 cases per year).
- ii. This documentation must:
  - be on official hospital documentation and signed by the Head of the Department of Perfusion or on Overseas Certifying Body documentation and verified by the Overseas Certifying Body.
  - exclude cases performed while the OTP candidate was a trainee, or otherwise not yet certified.
  - clearly identify the date of procedure, case type, and the OTP candidates' role as the primary perfusionist.

**d) English Language Skills Proficiency Results:**

- i. Unless exempt under Annexure A, the OTP must provide evidence that they meet, or exceed the English Language Skills Standard, using one of the pathways and/or Accepted English Language Tests recognised by NASRHP.

**e) Professional References:**

Provide Certified Copies of letters of attestation on official letterhead that includes the contact details and position of the attestor, dated within 6 months of the application from the following:

- i. Senior surgeon at their overseas cardiac surgery unit; and
- ii. The Head of Department of Perfusion at their overseas surgery unit, subject to Clause 14, as to the fact that the OTP meets the Competency Standards set by the ANZCP, that they are fit for practice, and that they are not aware of any conduct, performance, ethical or legal issues involving the Clinical Perfusionist which are relevant to Certification.

**f) Mandatory Declarations:**

- i. The OTP applicant agrees to abide and comply with the ANZCP Mandatory Declarations by providing a certified copy of a signed policy, and must declare whether they have ever
  - had registration, certification or right to practice, refused, restricted suspended or cancelled in any jurisdiction.
  - been subject to any conditions or cautions imposed by any regulator or employer relating to their clinical practice.
  - been convicted or charged with any criminal offence that may be relevant to clinical practice.
  - been the subject of any formal findings of serious professional misconduct.
- ii. The OTP must also notify the ANZCP/ANZBP promptly if any new issues arise at any time.

**g) OTP Policy Declaration**

- i. The OTP applicant agrees to having read and understand the current OTP policy, by providing a copy of a signed policy.

**h) Payment of Phase 1 Application Fee and Submission of Documents**

Must pay the fee set by the ANZCP for a Phase 1 assessment published on the ANZCP website at the time of application and provide proof of payment to [abcpsc@anzcp.org](mailto:abcpsc@anzcp.org). Documents are submitted via the online submission portal.

15. In the case of an OTP who is the head of the perfusion unit, instead of the letter described in Clause 14(e)(ii), the OTP candidate must provide:
  - a) Their current curriculum vitae; and
  - b) A letter of attestation from two referees able to attest to the OTP in the manner described in Clause 14(e)(ii).
    - This letter must provide contact details, role and relationship to OTP candidate.
    - One of the referees must be from the individuals' overseas employer/surgeon
16. In the case of an OTP who has been working in Australia or New Zealand for at least 12 months, the professional references required in Clause 14 may be from Australian or New Zealand attestors.

**PHASE 1: INTERVIEW**

17. Where the documentation submitted, described in Clauses 14 – 16, indicate that minimum thresholds are met, the applicant will be invited to attend a Phase 1 interview with the ANZBP. Completion of this interview is a mandatory component of Phase 1.
18. The Phase 1 interview is designed to:
  - a) Explore the OTP's scope and nature of practice, including typical case mix and responsibilities;
  - b) Assess the OTP's professionalism, ethical awareness and insight;
  - c) Assess the OTP's communication skills and English language competence in a clinical context; and
  - d) Consider the OTP's suitability to proceed within the Australian and New Zealand perfusion context, having regard to patient safety and local standards.
19. The interview will typically be conducted:
  - a) online via a virtual recorded meeting scheduled by the ANZBP.
  - b) in English, as the interview contributes to the assessment of communication and English language skills
  - c) by a panel comprising of at least two ANZBP members or representatives and may include additional members or observers as determined by the ANZBP.

21. Where an OTP requests to reschedule an interview, ANZBP may approve one reschedule for legitimate reasons (for example, illness, family emergency, or significant service disruption). Further requests to reschedule will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
22. Following the interview, the ANZBP will make a determination that the OTP applicant will either:
  - a) Proceed to Phase 1 approval to the category (refer to Clauses 10 – 12); and/or
  - b) Provide additional documentation or clarification before a decision is made (for example, further references, case details or English language evidence); and/or
  - c) Be required to undertake an entrance exam (refer to Clauses 36 (a)); and/or
  - d) Undertake remedial steps before any further progression (for example, additional English language testing or targeted educational activities); and/or
  - e) Be found ineligible to progress under this Policy at this time.

### PHASE 1: ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND EVIDENCE

23. The academic standards and evidence applying to Initial Certification are:
  - a) For an OTP first certified by the Overseas Certifying Body prior to 30 June 2024 - a Certified Copy of a qualification at or above Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 7 (Bachelor's degree or greater) in a perfusion-related domain, as assessed by the ANZBP in its absolute discretion, and a Certified Copy of the associated academic transcripts; and
  - b) For an OTP first certified by the Overseas Certifying Body on or after 1 July 2024 - Certified Copy of a qualification at or above Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 9 (Master's degree) or greater in perfusion-related domain, as assessed by the ANZBP in its absolute discretion, and a Certified Copy of the associated academic transcripts, including Bachelor degree and transcripts.

*Note: For information on the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) see:*  
<https://www.aqf.edu.au/aqf-qualifications>

24. Where the ANZCP requires official confirmation of equivalence of the qualification to one of the AQF levels specified in Clause 23 of this Policy, or an assessment of equivalence of competency gained through the qualification against the competency gained under a qualification described in Clause 6(c) of the Certification Policy, the OTP applying for Initial Certification must pay any associated costs.
25. Academic qualifications are subject to minimum levels of marks, as applicants are required to demonstrate that they meet minimum entry criteria for eligibility of enrolment for the educational program.

## **PHASE 1: TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS REQUIREMENT**

26. Any document supplied in support of an application for Initial Certification which is not in English, must be provided in both the original language and translated into English in accordance with the Translated Documents Policy (and provided as Certified Copies, where required by this Policy).

## **PHASE 1: PROCESSING, HANDLING AND OUTCOME**

27. The ANZBP will process the application within 20 Business Days of receipt of all requirements of Phase 1 of this Policy and decide whether the applicant has met the OTP eligibility requirements to progress to Phase 2 of the application process.
28. A Resubmission Fee may be required if the Phase 1 documents do not meet the criteria outlined in Clauses 14-20 and therefore will require resubmission, further impacting the processing time of application.
29. Within 10 Business Days of that decision, the ANZBP will provide the applicant with notice of the decision:
  - a) If successful, the ANZBP will allow the candidate to proceed to Phase 2 and advise whether the applicant will follow the Category A or Category B pathway, and the specific requirements that apply.
  - b) If unsuccessful, reasons for decision and requirements not met, and potential actions to move forward, if any, as determined by the ANZBP.

The decision is subject to the appeals process and timeline described in the Certification Policy.

## **PHASE 2: CLINICAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT**

30. Phase 2 requirements differ for Category A and Category B candidates as outlined below:

- Category A – governed by Clauses 31-34 of this policy.
- Category B – governed by Clauses 35-37 of this policy.

## **PHASE 2: CATEGORY A PATHWAY**

31. Category A Pathway applies to OTP candidates that;

- a) Have successfully completed Phase 1
- b) Meets the definition of a Category A OTP under Clauses 10 and 11.

32. Category A OTP Applicants must complete the following requirements:

**a) Entrance Exam:**

- i. Before commencing the clinical component of Phase 2, Category A Candidates may be required to sit an entrance exam within the first three months of employment, as determined by the ANZBP on a case-by-case basis, and achieve a minimum standard determined by the ANZBP.

**b) Confirmation of Employment and Supervision Requirements:**

- i. Secure a formal offer of employment as a Clinical Perfusionist at a recognised Australian or New Zealand perfusion hospital and provide a certified copy of the employment offer or letter of confirmation from the Head of Department of Perfusion.
- ii. The employing site:
  - has ANZBP-approved Lead and Clinical supervisors for the local supervised cases, as per the ANZBP Clinical Supervision Policy.

**c) Local Supervised Cases:**

- i. A minimum of fifty (50) local supervised cases at the employing hospital with ANZBP-approved Lead and/or Clinical Supervisors.
- ii. The cases must be provided in the logbook template provided, and must clearly identify the date of procedure, case type, and name of supervising perfusionist.

**d) Competency Assessment:**

- i. Ten (10) Competency Assessment forms for 10 of the 50 local supervised cases, completed by the Lead Supervisor, using the ANZBP provided template.

**e) Local Professional References:**

Provide Certified Copies of letters of attestation on official letterhead and with the contact details and position of the attestor, dated within 6 months of the application from the following:

- i. Senior surgeon at the cardiac surgery unit; and
- ii. The Head of Department of Perfusion, subject to Clause 34.
- iii. These references must support

- that the OTP meets the Competency Standards set by the ANZCP and are fit for practice safely and unsupervised
- that they are not aware of any conduct, performance, ethical or legal issues involving the Clinical Perfusionist which are relevant to Certification.

**f) Case Observations and Interview by an ANZBP Representative**

- i. The Category A candidate must have at least two (2) clinical cases directly observed by an ANZBP-nominated representative,
- ii. This process involves:
  - The ANZBP-nominated representative will assess the candidate's performance against ANZCP Competency Standards and provide a written report to the ANZBP.
  - Following the observed cases, the ANZBP-nominated representative will conduct a structured interview with the candidate to clarify and explore the candidate's application and reasoning in relation to the competencies observed. The structured interview will typically cover scientific reasoning, clinical decision-making, risk recognition and escalation, communication and teamwork, management of complications, and reflection on areas for improvement. The interview forms part of the overall Phase 2 assessment.
- iii. If the candidate does not meet the Competency Standards they are assessed against, the ANZBP will provide written recommendations to the employing hospital and lead supervisor and may require additional supervised cases before the candidate can be considered to have completed Phase 2.
- iv. If the candidate meets the Competency Standards, the ANZBP will provide documentation supporting provisional unsupervised practice until the candidate successfully completes the Phase 3 OTP exams.

**33. Academic Program (Optional for Category A Candidates)**

- a) Category A candidates may optionally enrol into one of the following ANZBP recognised academic programs in preparation for the Phase 3 OTP exams.
  - Monash University – Master of Cardiovascular Perfusion – EP2

**34. In the case of an OTP who is the head of the perfusion unit, instead of the letter described in Clause 32(d)(ii), the OTP candidate must provide an additional letter from a direct line manager.**

## PHASE 2: CATEGORY B PATHWAY

- 35.** Category B Pathway applies to OTP candidates that;
- a) Have successfully completed Phase 1
  - b) Meets the definition of a Category B OTP under Clause 12.
- 36.** Category B OTP Applicants must complete the following requirements:
- a) Entrance Exam:**
    - i Before commencing the clinical component of Phase 2, Category B Candidates may be required to sit an entrance exam within the first three months of employment, as determined by the ANZBP on a case-by-case basis, and achieve a minimum standard determined by the ANZBP.
  - b) Confirmation of Employment and Supervision Requirements:**
    - i Secure a formal offer of employment as a Clinical Perfusionist at a recognised Australian or New Zealand perfusion hospital and provide a certified copy of the employment offer or letter of confirmation from the Head of Department of Perfusion.
    - ii The employing site:
      - has ANZBP-approved Lead and Clinical supervisors for the local supervised cases, as per the ANZBP Clinical Supervision Policy.
  - c) Academic Program**
    - i Category B candidates must enrol in and continue in good standing with one of the following ANZBP recognised academic programs:
      - Monash University – Master of Cardiovascular Perfusion – EP2
    - ii Candidate must successfully complete all required components and meet academic standards of the enrolled course, to meet the requirement to progress to Phase 3 of this policy.
  - d) Local Supervised Cases:**
    - i A minimum of fifty (50) local supervised cases at the employing hospital with ANZBP-approved Lead and/or Clinical Supervisors.
    - ii The cases must be provided in the logbook template provided, and must clearly identify the date of procedure, case type, and name of supervising perfusionist.
  - e) Competency Assessment:**
    - i Ten (10) Competency Assessment forms for 10 of the 50 local supervised cases, completed by the Lead Supervisor, using the ANZBP-approved template.
  - f) Local Professional References:**

Provide Certified Copies of letters of attestation on official letterhead and with the contact details and position of the attestor, dated within 6 months of the application from the following:

    - i Senior surgeon at the cardiac surgery unit; and
    - ii The Head of Department of Perfusion, subject to Clause 37.
    - iii These references must support

- that the OTP meets the Competency Standards set by the ANZCP and are fit for practice safely and unsupervised.
- that they are not aware of any conduct, performance, ethical or legal issues involving the Clinical Perfusionist which are relevant to Certification.

**g) Case Observations and Interview by an ANZBP Representative**

- i The Category B candidate must have at least two (2) clinical cases directly observed by an ANZBP-nominated representative.
- ii This process involves:
  - The ANZBP-nominated representative will assess the candidate's performance against ANZCP Competency Standards and provide a written report to the ANZBP.
  - Following the observed cases, the ANZBP-nominated representative will conduct a structured interview with the candidate to clarify and explore the candidate's application and reasoning in relation to the competencies observed. The structured interview will typically cover scientific reasoning, clinical decision-making, risk recognition and escalation, communication and teamwork, management of complications, and reflection on areas for improvement. The interview forms part of the overall Phase 2 assessment.
- iii If the candidate does not meet the Competency Standards they are assessed against, the ANZBP will provide written recommendations to the employing hospital and lead supervisor and may require additional supervised cases before the candidate can be considered to have completed Phase 2.
- iv If the candidate meets the Competency Standards, the ANZBP will provide documentation supporting provisional unsupervised practice until the candidate successfully completes the Phase 3 OTP exams.

37. In the case of an OTP who is the head of the perfusion unit, instead of the letter described in Clause 36(f)(ii), the OTP candidate must provide an additional letter from another Surgeon or Cardiac Anaesthetist.

**PHASE 2: AUDIT AND VERIFICATION**

38. As per the ANZBP Clinical Supervision Policy all phase 2 Logbooks and competency assessments are subject to audit by the ANZBP.
39. On request, the OTP, Lead Supervisor and/or employing hospital must provide:
- a) copies of relevant patient deidentified theatre lists or electronic records to verify cases
  - b) evidence of supervision (e.g. rosters, theatre assignments or perfusion department diary.)
  - c) additional clarifying information about specific cases or competency assessments.

40. If the ANZBP identifies inconsistencies, inaccuracies or evidence of inadequate supervision the application may be rejected.

## **PHASE 2: PROCESSING, HANDLING AND OUTCOME**

41. The ANZBP will process the application within 20 Business Days of receipt of all requirements of Phase 2 of this Policy and decide whether the applicant has met the OTP eligibility requirements to progress to Phase 3 of the application process.
42. A Resubmission Fee reflected in the ANZBP pricing schedule on the ANZCP website will be required if the Phase 2 documents do not meet the criteria under Clause 30 and therefore require resubmission, further impacting the processing time of application.
43. Within 10 Business Days of that decision, the ANZBP will provide the applicant with notice of the decision:
  - a) If successful, the ANZBP will allow the candidate to proceed to Phase 3.
  - b) If unsuccessful, reasons for decision and requirements not met, and potential actions to move forward, if any, as determined by the ANZBP.

## **PHASE 3: OTP BOARD EXAMINATIONS**

44. Phase 3 is the final assessment phase in the OTP pathway and is used to determine whether the candidate has met the ANZCP competency standards required for certification as an OTP (ANZ).
45. All OTP candidates (Category A and Category B) are required to undertake the OTP Board Examinations conducted under the ANZBP Examination Policy.

## **PHASE 3: ELIGIBILITY FOR OTP BOARD EXAMINATIONS**

46. An OTP candidate is eligible to present for the OTP Board Examinations once the ANZBP has confirmed:
  - a) Phase 1 – Eligibility and Documentation requirements has been successfully completed
  - b) Phase 2 – Clinical Skills Assessment requirements have been fully met for the relevant Category (A or B)
  - c) Payment of Phase 3 OTP Board Examination fees as set by the ANZCP and published on the ANZCP's website.
47. The ANZBP will confirm eligibility in writing and will specify the ANZCP Examination Round at which the candidate is expected to present.

48. Deferral of a scheduled examination will only be granted in exceptional circumstances (for example, serious illness, bereavement, or unforeseen major service disruption) at the discretion of ANZBP and will require supporting documentation.
49. Candidates are expected to be preparing for the examination from the time they apply for the OTP Policy, in full knowledge that sitting and passing the examination is a mandatory component of Initial Certification.
50. All other conditions relating to examination eligibility, exam structure, sitting rules and deferrals are governed by the ANZCP Certification and Examination Policy, as amended from time to time.

### **PHASE 3: OUTCOME OF OTP BOARD EXAMINATIONS**

51. Following the examination, ANZBP will Determine whether the OTP has met the required pass standard and communicate the outcome to the candidate in accordance with ANZCP examination procedures and timelines.
52. If the OTP candidate passes the OTP Board Examinations and has met all other requirements of this Policy and the Certification Policy, ANZBP will proceed with the process for Initial Certification as OTP (ANZ). This Policy does not confer CCP (ANZ) status. CCP (ANZ) Certification is only available to graduates of the ANZBP-accredited local training program.
53. If the OTP candidate does not meet the required standard, the ANZBP Examination Policy governs failure and resits.

### **INHERENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

54. Progression through all phases is conditional and not automatic. The ANZBP may slow or stop progression at any point if any concerns arise about competence, conduct or safety.
55. Where an applicant has not provided the required documentation or fees, the ANZBP may issue one written request for missing information, but is not obliged to follow up with applicants. If an application remains incomplete after this request and a reasonable timeframe, the application will be treated as withdrawn and closed without further assessment. The applicant must reapply if their application has been closed.

### **POLICY TIMELINES FOR COMPLETION**

56. The OTP Policy is time-limited to ensure recency of practice, alignment with ANZCP Competency Standards and timely completion of the Certification process.

- 57.** From the date on which Phase 1 eligibility is confirmed and the OTP is allocated to a Category:
- a) Category A OTPs are expected to complete Phase 2 – Clinical Skills Assessment and present for Phase 3 – OTP Examination within 12 months or at the next ANZCP Examination Round scheduling.
  - b) Category B OTPs are expected to complete Phase 2 – Clinical Skills Assessment (Entrance Examination where required, recognised academic program and supervised practice) and Phase 3 – OTP Examination within approximately 21–24 months, depending on the start date of the recognised academic program and ANZCP Examination Round scheduling.
- 58.** Failure to progress within these timeframes may result in ANZBP:
- a) Requiring additional supervised practice and/or updated competency assessments; and/or
  - b) Requiring a revised plan and timeframe; or
  - c) Cancelling the OTP application, in which case the candidate would be required to reapply under the then-current OTP Policy and pay all applicable fees.
- 59.** If at any point in this process, if the OTP applicant no longer has employment, they must reapply via the OTP portal when they gain employment, and resupply documentation.

## **MAINTENANCE OF OVERSEAS CERTIFICATION**

- 60.** It is the individual responsibility of each OTP to ensure that their overseas certification remains current and in good standing for the duration of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of this policy.
- 61.** Any lapse, suspension, restriction or cancellation of overseas certification, or any new condition imposed by the Overseas Certifying Body must be notified promptly to the ANZCP/ANZBP.
- 62.** The ANZBP may, at its discretion, review, modify, suspend or terminate an OTP's progression through the pathway considering changes to their overseas certification status, with patient safety and public protection as the primary consideration.

## FEES

63. OTPs are responsible for payment of all relevant ANZCP fees associated with the OTP pathway, which may include (but are not limited to):
  - Phase 1, 2 and 3 assessment fees;
  - Any external qualification equivalence or verification fees;
  - Any other fees specified in current ANZCP schedules.
64. Tuition fees and associated costs for academic programs or any other fees incurred in this OTP process are the responsibility of the candidate and are separate from ANZCP fees.
65. Current fees are available in the ANZBP pricing schedule on the ANZCP website and fees are not refundable once a given stage of assessment has commenced.

## TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

66. This Policy applies to all Overseas Trained Perfusionists seeking recognition and ANZCP expects all OTP applicants to comply with this Policy in full.
67. Existing OTP candidates who have already been deemed eligible under a previous version of the OTP Policy may continue under that previous policy, provided they adhere to the timelines and requirements of that policy. If they fail to do so, their application may be cancelled and they will be required to reapply under the current Policy, in accordance with Clauses 56 – 59.
68. Existing OTP candidates from a previous version of the OTP Policy who have not yet been granted Phase 3 eligibility, and whose Phase 1 documentation would place them in Phase 2 Category A under this Policy, may request to transition to Phase 2 and Phase 3 of this current Policy. ANZBP will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis, having regard to recency, prior assessments and patient safety.

## REVIEW

69. This Policy and associated Procedure will be reviewed within two years of the date in the document footer.
70. Any policy revisions will, as far as practicable, be aligned with the requirements and practices of comparable NASRHP-recognised professions and with the evolving regulatory framework, noting that the ANZCP is working towards AHPRA registration.
71. Future policy reviews will take into consideration international expectations in perfusion recognition and may embed further education for all applicants

## ANNEXURE A – ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS STANDARD

1. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure overseas qualified perfusionists have the required minimum English language competency to provide safe and effective practice.
2. The ANZCP adopts the NASRHP English Skills requirement as the reference standard for English Language Proficiency for Overseas Trained Perfusionists.
3. OTP candidates must demonstrate that they meet the minimum English Language requirements prior to progression to Phase 2.
4. A certified copy of an English Proficiency is required as part of Clause 14 (d) and must be demonstrated through the completion of an approved English Language Test provider for applicants whose tertiary qualifications were not obtained from a recognised country including:
  - a) Australia
  - b) New Zealand
  - c) Canada
  - d) Republic of Ireland
  - e) South Africa
  - f) United Kingdom
  - g) United States of America
5. Acceptable Test Providers, test result scores, validity periods and timing requirements will also follow the current NASRHP English Language Skills requirement.
6. The accepted tests are IELTS (academic), OET (academic) and TOEFL iBT. Note: IELTS one skill retake tests can be accepted.
7. If the English Language Skills requirement is revised by NASRHP at any time, this Annexure is taken to incorporate those changes from the NASRHP effective date, without requiring a separate amendment to this Policy.
8. All costs related to English proficiency testing are at the expense of the applicant.

**Table: Minimum Test Scores Required**

	IELTS (academic)	OET (academic)	TOEFL iBT	PTE (academic)
Reading	7	B	24	66
Listening	7	B	24	66
Writing	7	B	27	66
Speaking	7	B	23	66
Overall	7	B	98	66

## APPENDIX A: Flow Chart of OTP Pathway

### Phase 1: Eligibility and Documentation

- Phase 1 Application Fee Payment
- Phase 1 Documentation Submission
  - Overseas Academic Qualifications
  - Overseas Certification and Good Standing
  - Overseas Clinical Case Log and Recency of Practice
  - English Language Test (if required)
  - Overseas Professional References
  - OTP Policy and Mandatory Declarations
- Phase 1 Interview



### Phase 2: Clinical Skills Assessment

#### Category A

*(applicants from recognised competent authorities)*

- Entrance exam (where required)
- Confirmation of Employment
- Local Supervised Cases
  - Approved Supervision
  - Competency Assessments
- Local Professional References
- Case Observation and Interview
- Academic Program Enrolment (optional)

#### Category B

*(all other applicants)*

- Entrance exam (where required)
- Confirmation of Employment
- Local Supervised Cases
  - Approved Supervision
  - Competency Assessments
- Local Professional References
- Case Observation and Interview
- Academic Program Enrolment (mandatory)



### Phase 3: OTP Board Examination

- Phase 3 OTP Examination Fee Payment
- Successful completion of OTP Exam