



Ethics Review Committee

The regulation of audiologists and audiometrists in Australia

Last updated 1 December 2019

Regulation of audiologists and audiometrists by professional bodies

Audiology Australia provides clinical certification, regulation and professional support to audiologists. The Australian College of Audiology provides clinical certification, regulation and professional support for both audiologists and audiometrists. [Audiology Australia's Register of Accredited Audiologists](#) includes all current audiologists clinically certified by Audiology Australia. The Australian College of Audiology issues a Full Membership and Clinical Competency certificates to confirm their certification of audiologists and audiometrists and members of the public can request to see these certificates.

The Ethics Review Committee is an independent committee that advises the Boards of Audiology Australia and the Australian College of Audiology. The Ethics Review Committee is responsible for implementing the [Complaints Management and Resolution Procedure](#) for members of Audiology Australia and the Australian College of Audiology in order to ensure that they abide by the [Code of Conduct for audiologists and audiometrists](#).

Regulation of people provide audiology and audiometry services via legislation

Audiologists and audiometrists do not require registration under the [National Law](#) with one of the National Boards under [the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#) and are therefore often referred to as “unregistered” health practitioners. However, this does not mean that they do not need to comply with relevant Codes of Conduct, including those of professional bodies such as Audiology Australia and the Australian College of Audiology, and any other State/Territory legislation relating to “unregistered” health practitioners. This includes abiding by the [National Code of Conduct for health care workers](#) (the National Code) which is currently implemented in some States in Australia and is planned to be implemented in all States and Territories. The National Code includes provisions which prevents people without the appropriate qualifications and experience from representing themselves as an audiologist or audiometrist.

Clinical certification required in order to provide audiology and audiometry services (i.e. hearing services) under Government-funded schemes

Australian Government's Hearing Services Program

In order to provide services under the Australian Government's Hearing Services Program an audiologist or audiometrist must be determined to be a Qualified Practitioner by the Federal Department of Health. This includes meeting the requirement of clinical certification by one of the three Practitioner Professional Bodies: 1. Audiology Australia (audiologists only), 2. The Australian College of Audiology (audiologists and audiometrists), or 3. The Hearing Aid Audiometrist Society of Australia (audiometrists only) (see Schedule 1 of the [Hearing Services Rules of Conduct 2012](#)). You can read more about Qualified Practitioners under the Hearing Services Program [here on the Department of Health's website](#), and in the relevant legislation: [Hearing Services Rules of Conduct 2012](#).

Medicare

In addition, to be able to claim Medicare benefits, audiologists must be clinically certified by Audiology Australia or the Australian College of Audiology. You can read more about Eligibility for recognition as an allied health professional [here on the Department of Human Services' website](#).

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

In order to receive funding for hearing service provision under the NDIS a provider must undertake a verification audit (legislated in Part 6-NDIS Practice Standards and Schedule 8 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(Provider Registration and Practice Standards\) Rules 2018](#)). The [NDIS Practice Standards-Verification Module – Required Documentation \(September 2018\)](#)⁴ states that:

- Part of the verification process for audiologists requires showing current certification as an Audiology Australian Accredited Audiologist or Full Member as an audiologist with the Australian College of Audiology (p.8)
- Part of the verification process for audiometrists requires showing current Full Membership of Hearing Aid Audiometrist Society of Australian or Full Member as an audiometrist with the Australian College of Audiology (p.9)

Private Health Insurance

The legislation relating to private health insurance requires that audiologists must be clinically certified by Audiology Australia or the Australian College of Audiology. The following legislation sections read in the following order describe this requirement:

- [Private Health Insurance \(Accreditation\) Rules 2011](#) §9 Treatments provided by allied health professionals
- [Health Insurance Regulations 2018](#) §12 Health service not specified in an item-meaning of health service
- [Private Health Insurance \(Accreditation\) Rules 2011](#) §9 Treatments provided by allied health professionals
- [Health Insurance \(Allied Health Services\) Determination 2014](#) Schedule 1—Qualification requirements for allied health professionals, 2 Audiology health service

Other Government scheme requirements

The National Transport Commission's [National Standard for Health Assessment of Rail Safety Workers](#) (see asterisk notes on pages 166 and 169) requires that audiologists conducting health assessments under their program are members and clinically certified by Audiology Australia (formerly known as the Audiological Society of Australia Inc.).

Many State and Territory Government schemes, such as work cover schemes, also have their own specific requirements regarding the clinical certification of audiologists and audiometrists who are able to conduct assessments and provide rehabilitation services.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding the regulation of audiologists and audiometrists in Australia or the work of the Ethics Review Committee, please contact the Ethics Officer at:

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AudA website: https://audiology.asn.au/Audiology_and_You/Making%20a%20Complaint

ACAud website: <https://www.acaud.com.au/contact-us/complaints>