

Capabilities for osteopathic practice (2019)

Implementation FAQ

When do the *Capabilities for osteopathic practice* take effect?

The *Capabilities for osteopathic practice (2019)* (the 2019 capabilities) take effect on **1 December 2019**.

They have been published on 19 June 2019 to allow for transition from the current [2009 capabilities](#) to the new 2019 capabilities. They have been published now to allow the osteopaths, the profession and stakeholders to have time to become familiar with the new requirements before they take effect on **1 December 2019**.

Until 30 November 2019, the existing 2009 capabilities will remain in force.

What are the capabilities for?

The Osteopathy Board of Australia (the Board) expects all osteopaths to understand and apply the capabilities in their practice.

The capabilities outline the attributes, knowledge and skills that all osteopaths should demonstrate to practise safely and ethically. They apply to osteopaths working across all practice settings, including research, education, management and other roles not involving direct contact with clients.

The 2019 capabilities specifically acknowledge the need for osteopaths to enhance their cultural responsiveness and capabilities for practice with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The 2019 capabilities are organised into seven integrated core roles:

- osteopath
- professional and ethical behaviour
- communicator
- critical reflective practitioner and life-long learner
- educator and health promotion
- collaborative practitioner, and
- leader and manager.

Each of the seven practice capabilities is described at three levels:

1. Role definition.
2. Key capabilities.
3. Enabling component.

How can I apply the capabilities?

What is safe and competent osteopathic practice can be demonstrated through the use, reflection and application of the capabilities in all fields of osteopathy practice.

The capabilities can be used:

- in the development of osteopathy curricula for entry-level programs of study by education institutions
- to assess osteopathy student and new graduate performance
- to assess osteopaths educated overseas seeking registration in Australia

- to assess osteopaths returning to work after breaks in service
- as part of professional conduct matters, and
- to communicate to consumers, employers, insurance companies and other stakeholders the level of competence expected of osteopaths.

Resources for osteopaths

The resources below are designed to help you understand and easily apply the capabilities to your osteopathy practice.