

# Recency or Resumption of Practice

## Summary

All self-regulating boards must set Recency of Practice (ROP) requirements to ensure health practitioners maintain safe and competent practice and an adequate connection to contemporary practice within their profession since obtaining their qualification. This registration standard identifies the Australian Recreational Therapy Associations (ARTA) minimum requirement for certified members in relation to recency or resumption of practice.

## Background

To ensure competent and contemporary service provision, Certified members are expected to complete mandatory continuous professional development (CPD) each year to practice competently and safely. This ensures the provision of contemporary services in line with best practise from certified members. This ensures recreational therapists remain current with their professional skills and knowledge. A certified member must maintain recency by continuing to practice and completed their and upload the CPD each year.

Certified members failing to meet the recency requirements are assessed against the following categories to assign a Resumption of Practice program for eligibility as a Certified Members:

<b>Recency of Practice Category</b>	<b>Category summary</b>	<b>Resumption of Practice</b>	<b>Description</b>
Experienced Short absence	Practised for MORE than 2 years. Absent for 3 to 5 years.	Stream A	CPD Requirements
Experienced Extended absence	Practised for MORE than 2 years. Absent for 5 years or longer	Stream B	CPD and Mentoring Requirements
Inexperienced Short absence	Practised for LESS than 2 years, Absent for 2 years or longer	Stream B	CPD and Mentoring Requirements

## The Resumption of Practice Program

Based on the above table there are two different streams identified in the assessment table above. An additional administration fee will be charged for members required to undertake the Resumption of Practice Program. This fee must be paid in full once member has been assigned to the appropriate stream and prior to the resumption of practice programme. On commencement of the program applicants will hold associate diploma membership.

Stream A- ARTA Council will calculate and advise the applicant on the number of hours CPD required to be completed with the minimum being 60 hours and the maximum of 100 hours. The applicant will have a maximum of 6 months to complete these hours.

Stream B- this requires both the completion of CPD hours and mentoring. ARTA will calculate and advise the applicant on the number of CPD hours required to be completed based on current membership requirements of 20 hours per year. Programme must be supervised by an appropriate mentor instrumental is required to be a certified member of the association. The mentor can be chosen by the applicant and should work in a similar setting or have experienced previously in that type of setting. The mentor will provide guidance on appropriate CPD activities for the period of the resumption of practise programme.

### **Completion of the resumption of practice program**

Monitoring of the resumption of practise programme progress for both stream A and stream B includes meeting timeframes. This will be checked as part of the CPD auditing process. All applicants in Stream A completing the programme will upload the CPD records through the membership portal of ARTA.

Applicants in Stream B completing the programme will upload the CPD records through the membership portal of ARTA. Additional to this will be required to complete a reflective piece of writing on then entry level requirements for certified members and how the applicant meets them. Applicants will email this document to the office at the completion of the mentoring hours.

When applicants have completed the requirements for the resumption of practice program they are to email the national office with any outstanding documentation acknowledging the applicants completion. This will then be checked through the auditing process and membership type reassigned.

### **Additional information**

Practice is defined as working in any role, regardless of remuneration, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a recreational therapist.

For the purpose of this directive,  
practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care.

It also includes working in non-clinical roles such as management activities, administrative, education, research, advisory, regulatory, or policy development roles, and any others that impact on safe effective delivery of services in recreational therapy and the use of their professional skills.

Minimum practise ROP means that the recreational therapist has maintained recent practise in the profession since qualifying as a recreational therapist. At least 1000 hours over the previous five years must have been attained for the therapist to be considered practising.

Practitioners with less than two years' experience are only permitted 2 years absent to be deemed recent.



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A mentor refers to a current certified member who has practised as a recreational therapist for at least five years since qualifying. An appropriate mentor should be nominated by the applicant and approved by the board's regulation committee, the ARTA Council. The mentor must agree to guide the applicant in the resumption of practice program.

Please refer to ARTAs Policies and guidelines for more information on the Resumption of Practice Program.