Information for Registered Health Practitioners

This information sheet and form is to support an application for Australian citizenship by conferral - Permanent or enduring physical or mental incapacity under subsection 21(3) of the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* (the Act). It is designed to guide Health Practitioners, registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), through the medical evidence requirements for applicants applying for Australian citizenship by conferral who have a permanent or enduring incapacity.

Australian citizenship by conferral

Overview

Most applicants for Australian citizenship by conferral are required to:

- Sit the citizenship test**,** and
- Make the Pledge of Commitment at a citizenship ceremony.

See Learn about the citizenship test and Citizenship ceremony.

In some instances, applicants may be exempt from the citizenship test and attending a ceremony.

Exemption from the citizenship test

Applicants who have a permanent or enduring physical or mental incapacity **may be exempt** from the citizenship test requirement if their incapacity:

- exists at the time they make their application; and
- their incapacity means they are not capable of sitting the citizenship test to demonstrate **one or more** of the following:
    - an understanding of the nature of the application, **or**
    - a basic knowledge of the English language, **or**
    - an adequate knowledge of Australia and the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship.

About the Australian citizenship test:

Applicants, who are required to sit the Australian citizenship test, will complete it using a computer or tablet device. The test consists of 20 multiple-choice questions in English and checks a person's knowledge of Australia, the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship. Applicants have 45 minutes to complete the test (or 90 minutes for those who completed 400 hours of language tuition in the Adult Migrant English Program).

To pass the test, applicants must answer 5/5 (100%) of the *Australian values* questions correctly, and achieve an overall mark of at least 15/20 (75%).

Citizenship staff can provide support to applicants during the test, such as operating the computer or tablet device, providing headsets for audio, reading the questions and multiple-choice answers aloud, and recording answers on behalf of applicant.

The Department offers a wide range of resources and support options to help applicants to prepare for and sit the test, including written and audio materials. See Prepare for the citizenship test

Permanent or enduring physical or mental incapacity

Important notes for medical evidence:

- Your assessment must be based on current medical evidence and confirm that the applicant has the relevant incapacity at the time they are applying for citizenship.
- The medical evidence must explain **how the condition is the direct cause** of the applicant not being capable of sitting the citizenship test to demonstrate **one or more** of the following:
    - an understanding of the nature of the application, **or**
    - a basic knowledge of the English language **or**,
    - an adequate knowledge of Australia and the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship.

Refer to the Department's website for further details see Become a citizen (by conferral) Person with an incapacity or impairment.

Medical evidence requirements

The applicant needs to provide **medical evidence** from you, as a Health Practitioner registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), which supports their claimed incapacity. This should include a supporting letter, responses to the questions below, assessments and/or reports from specialists or health practitioners.

For applicants claiming a **physical or mental incapacity**, the medical evidence can be provided by a:

- Specialist Health Practitioner in the field of incapacity who has assessed or is treating the applicant.
    - For applicants claiming a mental incapacity, this includes a:
        - Psychiatrist who is a fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP); or
        - Medical Practitioner who is a fellow of the Australian Society for Psychological Medicine (ASPM); or
        - Psychologist who is registered with the Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA).
- General Practitioner (GP) who is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

  and the GP
    - can provide a letter based on information from a treating specialist or consultant physician who has treated the applicant; **or**
    - has been treating the applicant for 12 months or more, and can provide a letter, based on credible evidence, that supports the GP's conclusions.

  The letter must state your full name, credentials, your Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency Registration number, date and be issued on the relevant Clinic/Practice letterhead. Please include relevant assessments or reports to support your letter.

Please see the below questions to inform and guide your response.

Provide the full name and date of birth of the person to whom this assessment relates.

Name:

DOB:

In your professional opinion please state:

1. What is the nature of the person's incapacity? Give details:

2. When was the person diagnosed with this incapacity? Give details:

3. Is the person's incapacity 'permanent' or 'enduring'? Give details:
   No ☐
   Yes ☐

4. In your opinion, is this incapacity likely to improve sufficiently for them to be able to study for and sit the citizenship test? Give details:
   No ☐
   Yes ☐

5. How does this incapacity prevent them from understanding the nature of their application for citizenship? Give details:

6. How does this incapacity prevent them from sitting the citizenship test to demonstrate a basic knowledge of English? Give details:

7. How does this incapacity prevent them from sitting the citizenship test to demonstrate an adequate knowledge of Australia, and the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship? Give details:

8. In what capacity have you dealt with this person and over what period of time? For example, as GP, consultant, other medical professional. Give details:

[Health Practitioner's Signature]

Full Name: _____

AHPRA Registration Number/ or other Registration number: _____

Date: ___ / ___ / _____

Clinic/Practice Stamp (if available):