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To: All Allied Health Professionals

CHANGES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

This circular sets out the English language proficiency requirements for registration with the Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC).

CURRENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

2 Currently, registration applicants, whose basic professional qualification was not from Singapore, Australia, Canada (except Quebec), New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, are required to demonstrate English Language Proficiency. The AHPC currently accepts the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Occupational English Test (OET). Please refer to the **Annex** for the profession specific requirements.

IELTS ACADEMIC & IELTS GENERAL TRAINING MODULE

3 In recent months, the AHPC received several enquiries to clarify whether the Academic or General Training module of the IELTS was required. Based on information available from the IELTS, the General Training module focuses on English language proficiency in broad social and workplace contexts and is used for the purposes of immigration and for individuals studying in programmes below the level of a university degree. The IELTS Academic module is generally required for individuals who wish to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels and by professional organisations as a membership requirement in English-speaking countries.

ADOPTION OF IELTS ACADEMIC MODULE FROM 1 JANUARY 2015

4 Upon review of the IELTS and consideration of the requirements of other professional bodies, the AHPC has decided that for registration purposes, the IELTS Academic module is more appropriate and relevant. Therefore, **the IELTS Academic module will be required for registration applications received from 1 January 2015.** The requirements for TOEFL and OET remain unchanged.

5 The AHPC also recognises that registration applicants and conditionally registered therapists may already have applied for or taken the General Training module of the IELTS prior to this clarification. Therefore, the AHPC will continue to accept the IELTS General Training module until the end of 2014. However, all applicants and registrants are strongly encouraged to take the Academic module of the IELTS if they have not yet done so.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Teo', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MS. ELAINE TEO
REGISTRAR
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

ANNEX

Acceptable English Language Proficiency Scores		
	Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy¹	Speech-Language Therapy²
IELTS³	At least 7 for ALL components (Listening, Reading, Writing AND Speaking)	8 and no less than 7.5 for ALL components (Listening, Reading, Writing AND Speaking)
TOEFL	At least 250 marks for computer-based test or 600 marks for paper-based test or 100 marks for internet-based test	110 marks for internet-based test
OET	Grade B and above	At least 3 Grade As and 1 Grade B
<p>¹ Affected registration applicants (i.e. Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists who have not taken the test and need to take the test can proceed with the registration application first. <u>All successful applicants affected must fulfil the ELP requirements as part of their Conditional or Temporary registration period.</u></p> <p>² All affected applicants (i.e. Speech-Language Therapists must meet this requirement and show proof of English Language Proficiency <u>at the point of registration application.</u></p> <p>³ Only IELTS Academic module will be accepted from 1 January 2015.</p>		