Dermatologists – Practise in Australia

Able Medico · Information for overseas-trained dermatologists · November 2026

Overview

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) assesses overseas-trained dermatologists. Dermatology is on the acute-shortage list, so a section 19AB exemption can allow you to bill Medicare in any location.

Dermatology is also one of the next specialties the Medical Board of Australia has prioritised for its Expedited Specialist pathway. Until it is added, all overseas-trained dermatologists are assessed by the ACD.

Dermatology in Australia

Australia has one of the highest skin cancer rates in the world, and access to dermatologists is limited outside the major cities. Dermatologists diagnose and treat conditions of the skin, hair and nails, from skin cancer to chronic inflammatory disease.

What Australian dermatologists do

- Diagnose and treat skin cancer, including surgical excision and Mohs surgery
- Manage psoriasis, eczema, acne and other chronic skin disease, including biologic therapy
- Perform procedural dermatology, phototherapy and laser treatment
- Provide paediatric dermatology and skin-of-colour expertise
- Consult on complex hospital inpatients and run outreach clinics

Where they work

Mostly private practice, with public hospital outpatient sessions and regional outreach. Most dermatologists are based in metropolitan areas, so regional and rural communities have the greatest unmet need.

About ACD assessment

The ACD is accredited by the Australian Medical Council to assess overseas-trained dermatologists on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia. The ACD assesses comparability and recommends requirements. It does not grant registration, find you a position, arrange visas or set salaries — that is where Able Medico helps.

Your pathways

There are two routes for dermatologists, with a fast-track option for regional and rural positions. Our Due Diligence report tells you which fits your training and experience.

Pathway	Who it is for	Possible outcomes	What follows	Leads to
ACD specialist assessment	Dermatologists who have completed specialist training and are recognised as specialists in their country of training	Substantially / partially / not comparable, after a document review and interview	Substantially comparable: recommended for specialist recognition. Partially comparable: 6, 12 or up to 24 months' further training and assessment in an approved position	Specialist registration and FACD

Pathway	Who it is for	Possible outcomes	What follows	Leads to
Area of Need	Dermatologists selected by an employer for a position the state or territory has declared an Area of Need	Suitable / not suitable for the position	Practise in that position under supervision, alongside specialist assessment	Registration tied to that position, while you complete specialist recognition

Points to know

- The ACD checks your documents (about 8 weeks), then assesses your training and experience and invites you to an interview with its committee. Allow about 12 months from application to decision.
- Partially comparable dermatologists complete their requirements in a limited IMG upskilling position. The ACD helps identify positions but cannot guarantee one.
- If 24 months' further training is required, you also pass the ACD Pharmacology module and the Fellowship examinations (up to 3 attempts) within 4 years.
- Not comparable applicants may apply to the ACD training program, or reapply after 5 years.
- An assessment outcome is valid for 5 years.
- **Rural and Regional Fast-Track (from July 2026).** If you have an offer of employment in a regional, rural or remote location (Modified Monash Model 2 and above) and commit to working there, the ACD aims to complete your assessment, including any interview, within 4 months of a complete application. It speeds up processing only; it does not change the outcome, and priority is not guaranteed.

Medical licencing process

1. **Due Diligence.** Our opinion on your most likely ACD outcome, your registration pathway and visa options.
2. **Primary source verification.** Verify your medical and specialist qualifications through the Australian Medical Council.
3. **ACD assessment.** Application, document check, then committee interview.
4. **Find your position.** We introduce you to employers. For partially comparable outcomes, the position must be approved for IMG upskilling.
5. **Ahpra registration.** Limited (or provisional) registration while you complete supervised practice or training.
6. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa.
7. **Medicare.** Provider number and section 19AB exemption (dermatology is on the acute-shortage list).
8. **Commence practice.** Supervised practice or further training, plus any examinations set in your outcome.
9. **Fellowship and specialist registration.** Complete your requirements, then FACD and specialist registration.

Workforce, demand and remuneration

Workforce. Australia has a small dermatology workforce relative to its skin cancer burden, and wait times for a specialist appointment are long in many regions.

Demand. Dermatology is on the acute-shortage list for section 19AB (as published May 2026), and is one of the next priority specialties for the Expedited Specialist pathway.

Remuneration. As a guide, dermatologists working under supervision before Fellowship have been offered about $150,000 a year. Earnings increase significantly after specialist registration, particularly in private practice. We discuss remuneration for specific opportunities with you directly.

How Able Medico helps

Medical licencing and migration is our forte. We prepare your ACD application and interview, help you secure an approved position, and manage Ahpra, visa and Medicare steps. Through our employer contacts we can introduce you to private dermatology practices and hospitals.

Next steps

- **Start with Due Diligence:** ablemedico.com.au/able-medico-for-doctors
- **Contact us:** ablemedico.com.au/contact-us

Sources

- Specialist pathway for overseas dermatologists — Australasian College of Dermatologists
- TPIM005 IMG Specialist Recognition Assessment Policy — ACD
- Rural and Regional Fast-Track Pathway — ACD, July 2026
- Specialist pathway – specialist recognition — Medical Board of Australia
- Expedited Specialist pathway — Medical Board of Australia