Obstetricians, Gynaecologists and IVF Specialists – Practise in Australia

Able Medico · Information for overseas-trained O&G and fertility specialists · November 2026

Overview

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) assesses overseas-trained O&G specialists, including fertility (IVF) subspecialists.

If you hold a UK MRCOG and CCT, or an Irish MRCPI (O&G) and CSCST, you may be eligible for the faster Expedited Specialist pathway, applying directly to Ahpra.

Fertility specialists practise as O&G specialists, with RANZCOG's subspecialty Certification in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (CREI) recognising advanced training.

Obstetrics and gynaecology in Australia

Obstetricians and gynaecologists in Australia provide care across pregnancy, birth and women's reproductive health. Most combine a public hospital appointment with private obstetric and gynaecology practice.

Scope of practice

- **Obstetrics:** antenatal care, management of high-risk pregnancy, birth including caesarean section, and postnatal care
- **Gynaecology:** menstrual and menopausal disorders, endometriosis, pelvic pain, contraception, and gynaecological surgery including laparoscopic and hysteroscopic procedures
- **Screening:** cervical screening follow-up and colposcopy
- **Subspecialties:** RANZCOG certifies five — maternal-fetal medicine, gynaecological oncology, urogynaecology, obstetric and gynaecological ultrasound, and reproductive endocrinology and infertility (CREI)

Where they work

Public and private hospitals, private rooms, regional and rural maternity units, and fertility clinics.

IVF and fertility practice

In Australia, IVF and fertility care is led by obstetricians and gynaecologists. Fertility specialists are registered as O&G specialists, and many hold RANZCOG's Certification in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (CREI).

What CREI means. CREI subspecialists are FRANZCOG specialists who have completed around three further years of subspecialty training. They manage reproductive endocrine disorders and infertility, and can lead an assisted conception unit.

What fertility specialists do

- Assess and treat infertility, polycystic ovary syndrome, endometriosis and recurrent pregnancy loss
- Manage assisted reproduction cycles: ovulation induction, IUI, IVF and ICSI
- Perform oocyte retrievals, embryo transfers, and reproductive surgery (laparoscopy and hysteroscopy)

- Provide fertility preservation, including urgent consultations for patients facing cancer treatment
- Work with embryologists, nurses and counsellors in an accredited IVF unit

How care is delivered. Most IVF in Australia is provided by private fertility groups, with some public hospital units. Specialists usually see patients in their own rooms and perform procedures in the group's day-surgery and laboratory facilities.

For overseas-trained fertility specialists. You are first assessed and registered as an O&G specialist. RANZCOG then recognises your subspecialty experience separately (see the pathways below).

Your pathways

There are two routes to specialist practice in O&G, and a separate step for fertility subspecialty recognition. Our Due Diligence report confirms which applies to you.

	Pathway 1: Expedited Specialist pathway	Pathway 2: RANZCOG assessment
Who it is for	UK: MRCOG issued from August 2007, plus CCT. Ireland: MRCPI (O&G) from July 2010, plus CSCST and the MRCOG examinations	All other overseas-trained O&G specialists, and subspecialists applying through RANZCOG's subspecialty pathway
Who assesses you	Ahpra and the Medical Board, against their accepted-qualifications list (open to O&G since 5 March 2025)	RANZCOG: preliminary paper review, then interview
Possible outcomes	Eligible or not eligible	Substantially comparable, partially comparable, or not comparable
What follows	Supervised practice and orientation, then specialist registration without conditions	Substantially comparable: specialist practice under supervision, usually about 12 months. Partially comparable: further supervised training (usually up to two years) and specified requirements such as colposcopy or ultrasound
Extra requirement	Colposcopy training may be required, per Medical Board guidance	As set in your RANZCOG outcome
Fellowship (FRANZCOG)	Optional	The pathway leads to FRANZCOG

Fertility (CREI) recognition

- **If you hold an overseas fertility subspecialty qualification:** RANZCOG's subspecialty assessment considers your O&G training (against its Common Scope) plus a recognised subspecialist qualification and subsequent experience in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.
- **If you do not:** you can practise in fertility as an O&G specialist. Formal CREI training is open after Fellowship, or to SIMGs who meet RANZCOG's eligibility rules (for example, substantially comparable SIMGs with unconditional registration).
- **Expedited pathway applicants** register as O&G specialists. Subspecialty recognition is a separate RANZCOG process.

Medical licencing process

Both pathways start with Due Diligence. Fertility specialists add a subspecialty step once registered.

Pathway 1 – Expedited Specialist pathway

1. **Due Diligence.** We confirm your MRCOG/MRCPI and CCT/CSCST match the accepted-qualifications list, and map your visa options.
2. **Find your position.** Introductions to hospitals, private practices or fertility groups; agree a supervised practice plan.
3. **Ahpra application.** Lodge for specialist registration. Complete any colposcopy requirement.
4. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa.
5. **Medicare.** Provider number and any section 19AB exemption for your location.
6. **Commence practice** under supervision, with orientation.
7. **Conditions removed** on completion of supervised practice.
8. **Optional:** FRANZCOG, and CREI recognition for fertility specialists.

Pathway 2 – RANZCOG assessment

1. **Due Diligence.** Our opinion on your most likely RANZCOG outcome, registration pathway and visa options.
2. **RANZCOG assessment.** Application, preliminary review and interview.
3. **Find your position.** RANZCOG must be satisfied the position and supervisor meet your outcome requirements.
4. **Ahpra registration.** Lodge your application once your position is confirmed.
5. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa.
6. **Medicare.** Provider number and section 19AB exemption.
7. **Commence practice** under supervision; complete specified requirements.
8. **Fellowship.** Apply for FRANZCOG; fertility specialists then pursue CREI recognition.

Demand and remuneration

Demand. O&G was added to the Expedited Specialist pathway in March 2025 as a workforce priority. Neither O&G nor fertility is on the acute-shortage list, so where you can bill Medicare depends on District of Workforce Shortage status for your location.

Remuneration. Earnings vary with the mix of public sessions, private obstetrics, gynaecological surgery and fertility work, and with your supervision level before specialist registration. We discuss remuneration for specific opportunities with you directly.

How Able Medico helps

Medical licencing and migration is our forte. We prepare your RANZCOG or Ahpra application, guide you through supervision and any subspecialty recognition, and manage your visa and Medicare steps. Through our employer contacts we can introduce you to hospitals, private practices and fertility groups.

Next steps

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

Sources

- Expedited Specialist pathway: accepted qualification list — Medical Board of Australia, as at 1 July 2026

- Expedited pathway opens to obstetricians and gynaecologists — Medical Board of Australia, 5 March 2025
- Specialist International Medical Graduates in Australia — RANZCOG
- Certification in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (CREI) — RANZCOG
- RANZCOG Regulations Section C – Subspecialty Training — RANZCOG