Psychiatrists – Practise in Australia

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

Overview

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) assesses overseas-trained psychiatrists. UK psychiatrists have two faster options: the Medical Board's Expedited Specialist pathway, applying directly to Ahpra, and the RANZCP Accelerated pathway.

Demand for psychiatrists is strong across Australia, in public mental health services and private practice, and especially in regional areas.

Psychiatry in Australia

Psychiatrists assess, diagnose and treat mental illness across the lifespan, leading multidisciplinary teams of mental health nurses, psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists.

What Australian psychiatrists do

- General adult psychiatry in inpatient units, community mental health teams and emergency departments
- Child and adolescent, old age, addiction, forensic and consultation-liaison psychiatry
- Medication management, psychotherapy and electroconvulsive therapy
- Mental health legislation assessments and reports
- Telehealth and outreach to regional and remote communities

Where they work

Public mental health services, public and private hospitals, private rooms, and forensic and correctional services.

About RANZCP assessment

The RANZCP is accredited by the Australian Medical Council to assess overseas-trained psychiatrists on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia. The RANZCP 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 four routes for psychiatrists. Our Due Diligence report tells you which fits your training and experience.

Pathway	Who it is for	Possible outcomes	What follows	Leads to
Medical Board Expedited Specialist pathway	Psychiatrists with UK MRCPsych plus CCT (from August 2007)	Eligible / not eligible (assessed by Ahpra)	Supervised practice and orientation, then specialist registration	Specialist registration; FRANZCP not included

Pathway	Who it is for	Possible outcomes	What follows	Leads to
RANZCP Accelerated pathway	Psychiatrists with MRCPsych (UK) plus a CCT/CCST, verified by the AMC, who intend to live in Australia permanently	Substantially comparable placement, decided on paper with no interview, in about 9 weeks	Supervised placement and RANZCP requirements	Specialist registration and FRANZCP
RANZCP standard pathway	Psychiatrists with at least 3 years' specialist training, including 12 months in general adult psychiatry (6 months acute inpatient), registered as specialists in their home country	Substantially / partially / not comparable, after a panel review and possible online interview, within about 18 weeks	Substantially comparable: a supervised placement of at least 12 months FTE. Partially comparable: Associate Membership and a placement of about 24 months	Specialist registration and FRANZCP
Area of Need	Psychiatrists 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

- Fees for the RANZCP Accelerated pathway are about A$525. The standard pathway costs about A$525 plus A$6,812 for the assessment.
- Not comparable applicants are directed to the RANZCP Fellowship Program.
- If you plan to work in a subspecialty such as child and adolescent psychiatry, we advise which route best supports that practice.

Medical licencing process

1. **Due Diligence.** Our opinion on which pathway applies to you, your most likely outcome, and your registration and visa options.
2. **Primary source verification.** Verify your medical and specialist qualifications through the Australian Medical Council.
3. **Assessment.** Expedited: apply straight to Ahpra. Accelerated: RANZCP paper assessment. Standard: RANZCP panel review and possible interview.
4. **Find your position.** We introduce you to employers and agree your supervision arrangements.
5. **Ahpra registration.** Specialist registration (Expedited) or limited (or provisional) registration while you complete your placement.
6. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa.
7. **Medicare.** Provider number and section 19AB exemption for your location.
8. **Commence practice.** Supervised practice or placement, with RANZCP workplace assessments where required.
9. **Fellowship and specialist registration.** Complete your requirements, then specialist registration and, on the RANZCP pathways, FRANZCP.

Workforce, demand and remuneration

Workforce. Australia relies heavily on overseas-trained psychiatrists, and many public services have long-standing vacancies.

Demand. Psychiatry is included in the Expedited Specialist pathway. It is not on the acute-shortage list, so where you can bill Medicare depends on District of Workforce Shortage (DWS) status for the location. We check this for every position we propose.

Remuneration. Earnings depend on public or private practice, location and 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 tell you which of the four routes suits you, prepare your application, secure a suitable position, and manage Ahpra, visa and Medicare steps. Through our employer contacts we can introduce you to public mental health services and private practices.

Next steps

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

Sources

- Accelerated pathway — RANZCP
- Pathways to FRANZCP — RANZCP
- Expedited Specialist pathway: accepted qualification list — Medical Board of Australia, as at 1 July 2026
- Specialist pathway – specialist recognition — Medical Board of Australia