Radiation Oncologists – Practise in Australia

Able Medico · Information for overseas-trained radiation oncologists · November 2026

Overview

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) assesses overseas-trained radiation oncologists. RANZCR was the first College we worked with, and we know its processes and its employers very well.

Radiation oncologists are assessed on RANZCR's full scope pathway, or for a specific position through an Area of Need assessment. The full scope pathway leads to specialist registration and Fellowship (FRANZCR).

Radiation oncology in Australia

Radiation oncologists treat cancer, and some benign conditions, with radiation therapy. They plan and prescribe treatment, manage side effects and follow patients through and after treatment, working closely with medical oncologists, surgeons, radiation therapists and physicists.

What Australian radiation oncologists do

- Assess patients and recommend radiation therapy as part of a multidisciplinary cancer plan
- Plan external beam treatment, stereotactic radiotherapy and brachytherapy
- Manage treatment toxicity and long-term follow-up
- Contribute to clinical trials and tumour-stream meetings

Where they work

Public cancer centres and private radiation oncology groups, mostly in metropolitan centres and larger regional cities where linear accelerators are located.

About RANZCR assessment

RANZCR is accredited by the Australian Medical Council to assess overseas-trained radiation oncologists on behalf of the Medical Board of Australia. RANZCR 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.

RANZCR introduced a new IMG Assessment Policy (v5.0) from 1 July 2026. Its limited scope and defined scope pathways apply to clinical radiology only, and the Expedited Specialist pathway does not currently include radiation oncology.

Your pathways

There are two routes for radiation oncologists. Our Due Diligence report tells you which fits your training and experience.

Pathway	Who it is for	Possible outcomes	What follows	Leads to
RANZCR full scope	Radiation oncologists recognised as consultants in their country of training	Substantially comparable / partially comparable / not comparable	Substantially comparable: up to 12 months' peer review at a RANZCR-accredited site. Partially comparable: up to 24 months' upskilling, then RANZCR Phase 2 exams	Specialist registration and FRANZCR
Area of Need	Radiation oncologists selected by an employer for a position in a declared Area of Need (usually regional)	Suitable (with conditions) / not suitable	Practise in that position under supervision; you are also assessed for comparability	Registration tied to that position, while you complete specialist recognition

Points to know

- RANZCR's interview is held online by two trained Fellows.
- Partially comparable radiation oncologists cannot practise as specialists until they pass all Phase 2 exams. Those needing no more than 12 months' upskilling can do it at an Area of Need site accredited for upskilling.
- The specialist recognition pathway must be completed in Australia.
- Not comparable applicants are referred back to the Medical Board for other options.

Medical licencing process

1. **Due Diligence.** Our opinion on your most likely RANZCR outcome, your registration pathway and visa options.
2. **Primary source verification.** Verify your medical and specialist qualifications through ECFMG and set up an Australian Medical Council portfolio.
3. **RANZCR assessment.** Application, then an online interview.
4. **Find your position.** We introduce you to employers. For peer review or upskilling, RANZCR must approve the position and training plan at least 3 weeks before you start; it will not approve retrospectively.
5. **Ahpra registration.** Lodge with RANZCR's letter of support for the position.
6. **Visa.** Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) or a permanent residence visa.
7. **Medicare.** Provider number and section 19AB exemption for your location (the 10-year moratorium applies even after Fellowship).
8. **Commence practice.** Peer review or upskilling, with workplace-based assessments recorded in RANZCR's ePortfolio.
9. **Specialist registration and Fellowship.** Complete your requirements (and Phase 2 exams if partially comparable), then specialist registration without conditions and FRANZCR.

Workforce, demand and remuneration

Workforce. Australian Government health workforce data recorded 472 radiation oncologists employed in Australia in 2022. As in other specialties, they are concentrated in metropolitan areas.

Demand. Demand is expected to grow with the ageing population and rising cancer incidence. Radiation oncology is not on the acute-shortage list, so where you can bill Medicare depends on District of Workforce Shortage status for the location.

Remuneration. Earnings depend on your RANZCR outcome and supervision level, public or private employment, and location. We discuss figures for specific opportunities with you directly.

How Able Medico helps

RANZCR was the first College we worked with, in 2014. We prepare your application and interview, help you secure an approved position, and manage Ahpra, visa and Medicare steps. Our employer contacts include public cancer centres and private radiation oncology groups.

Next steps

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

Sources

- International Medical Graduates (IMG) — RANZCR, IMG Assessment Policy v5.0 from 1 July 2026
- A career in radiation oncology — RANZCR
- Expedited Specialist pathway: accepted qualification list — Medical Board of Australia, as at 1 July 2026