Radiologists – Practise in Australia

Able Medico · Information for overseas-trained clinical radiologists · November 2026

Overview

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

RANZCR now offers full scope, limited scope and defined scope assessments (interventional radiology, interventional neuroradiology and paediatric radiology). Canadian-certified diagnostic radiologists can use the faster Expedited Specialist pathway.

Clinical radiology in Australia

Clinical radiologists diagnose and treat disease using X-ray, ultrasound, CT, MRI and image-guided procedures. They work in public hospitals and in private radiology practices, which in Australia range from large national groups to independent regional practices.

What Australian radiologists do

- Report diagnostic imaging across all modalities, increasingly by teleradiology
- Perform image-guided procedures: biopsies, drainages and injections
- Interventional radiology and neuroradiology: vascular and neurovascular procedures in hospital settings
- Take part in multidisciplinary team meetings, particularly in cancer care
- Supervise and teach registrars in accredited training sites

Where they work

Public hospitals, private radiology groups, and regional and rural practices. RANZCR's 2020 workforce census found only 12.1% of clinical radiologists were based in regional and rural Australia, which is where the shortage is greatest.

Nuclear medicine. Nuclear medicine is trained jointly by RANZCR and the RACP, but overseas-trained nuclear medicine physicians are assessed by the RACP. Dual-qualified radiologist and nuclear medicine specialists are highly valued by employers.

About RANZCR assessment

RANZCR is accredited by the Australian Medical Council to assess overseas-trained clinical radiologists 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.

Your pathways

RANZCR introduced a new IMG Assessment Policy (v5.0) from 1 July 2026, and there are now five routes for clinical radiologists. Our Due Diligence report tells you which fits your training and the work you want to do.

Pathway	Who it is for	Possible outcomes	What follows	Leads to
Expedited Specialist pathway	Diagnostic radiologists with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certificate (residency starting after 1 July 2002)	Eligible / not eligible (assessed by Ahpra)	Supervised practice, then specialist registration	Specialist registration; FRANZCR not included
RANZCR full scope	Clinical radiologists 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
RANZCR limited scope	Radiologists whose training differs from RANZCR's in specific areas	Substantially comparable / not comparable	Up to 12 months' peer review	Specialist registration with a condition naming your scope exclusions; Educational Affiliate, not FRANZCR
RANZCR defined scope	Interventional radiologists, interventional neuroradiologists and paediatric radiologists who will practise only in that field	Substantially comparable / not comparable	Up to 12 months' peer review	Specialist registration limited to that scope; Educational Affiliate, not FRANZCR
Area of Need	Radiologists 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. For Area of Need positions, the assessment also includes a film-reading component.
- Partially comparable radiologists 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

Most overseas radiologists follow the RANZCR route below. Canadian diagnostic radiologists on the Expedited pathway skip step 3 and apply straight to Ahpra.

1. **Due Diligence.** Our opinion on your most likely RANZCR outcome (full, limited or defined scope), 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, on the full-scope pathway, FRANZCR.

Workforce, demand and remuneration

Workforce. RANZCR's most recent published census (2020) counted 2,350 full-time clinical radiologists in Australia, or 91.5 per million people. More than a third obtained their medical qualification overseas, and only 12.1% were based in regional and rural Australia.

Demand. Radiology is not on the acute-shortage list, so where you can bill Medicare depends on District of Workforce Shortage status for the location. Regional practices and Area of Need positions are where most first roles arise.

Remuneration. Earnings before Fellowship depend mainly on your RANZCR outcome and supervision level. Typical examples:

Supervision level before Fellowship	Typical annual range (AUD)
Supervision level allowing independent reporting and Medicare billing	$300,000–$450,000
Reports co-signed by a FRANZCR and no Medicare billing	$130,000–$180,000

Remuneration after Fellowship varies with practice type, subspecialty 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, and it remains our main specialty. We help you choose between full, limited and defined scope, prepare your application and interview, secure an approved position, and manage Ahpra, visa and Medicare steps. Our radiology employer contacts span public hospitals and private 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
- Defined Scope of Practice Pathway for International Medical Graduates — RANZCR, 2 July 2025
- Expedited Specialist pathway: accepted qualification list — Medical Board of Australia, as at 1 July 2026
- 2020 Australian Clinical Radiology Workforce Census — RANZCR