

Resumption of Accredited Practising Dietitian (RoAPD) Policy

Statement of Purpose

This policy outlines the processes for eligible dietitians seeking to re-enter the Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) Program after an absence of three or more years. It provides clear pathways and requirements to ensure returning practitioners meet current professional standards and are equipped to resume accredited practice safely and effectively.

This policy also applies to those current APD's who are unable to meet Recency of Practice requirements outlined below.

Definitions

Key terminology referred to in this policy are defined below:

Dietetic Practice Dietetic Practice includes using professional knowledge in both clinical and non-clinical relationships with patients or clients, communities and populations and can be working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, communication, program development and implementation, regulatory or policy development, food service, food security, food supply, sustainability and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession and/or using professional skills.

Recency of Practice is defined as the period during which an individual has utilised their professional knowledge and skills and the extent to which contemporary practice and competence within a profession has been maintained (NASRHP, 2024). The evidence required to demonstrate recency will be as follows:

For Employees - Employment contract, Statement of service

For Self-Employed - Statutory Declaration and/or formal letters from organisations who request services from the practitioner. Portfolio of evidence to support employment e.g. self-written summary, de-identified case notes, resources, awards.

Supervision is defined as a formal professional development activity whereby two or more professionals engage in reflective discussions to improve practice, service and health care outcomes (Ducat et.al 2015).

The leading voice in nutrition and dietetics

A PO Box 2087 Woden ACT 2606 | T 02 6189 1200

E info@dietitiansaustralia.org.au | W dietitiansaustralia.org.au

Dietitians Association of Australia | ABN 34 008 521 480

Dietitians Australia and the associated logo is a trademark of the Dietitians Association of Australia.

Pathways to Re-Entry into the APD Program

Dietitians who have been absent from the APD Program for three or more years, or who graduated more than three years ago from a Dietitians Australia-approved dietetics degree (or passed the Dietetic Skills Recognition (DSR) exam more than three years ago), must apply to rejoin through the **Resumption of Accredited Practising Dietitian Pathway (RoAPD Pathway)**. A non-refundable application fee applies.

Regulatory Services staff at Dietitians Australia will assess applications made via this pathway to determine and guide applicants regarding:

- Their eligibility for re-entry,
- The appropriate pathway based on recency of practice,
- The entry requirements and conditions according to the APD Program.

Re-Entry Pathways

Three distinct pathways have been established for re-entry into the APD program:

Pathway 1. Restart Pathway – Direct Entry to APD

Eligibility:

- Absence from the APD Program for **three or more years**.
- Can demonstrate **evidence of Recency of Practice**:
 - **150 hours** of dietetic practice in the past **12 months**, or
 - **450 hours** in the past **three years**.

Requirements:

- Eligible to resume APD status without additional supervision or exams.
- Must meet annual APD continuous professional development and recency of practice requirements.
- Undergo **APD Program audit** after the first full year back in the program.

Pathway 2. Reboot Pathway – Supervised Return to APD

Eligibility:

- Away from the APD Program for **three to five years and cannot meet Recency of Practice** requirements (i.e 150 hours in the past 12 months or 450 hours in the past three years); or

- Current APD **at risk of losing the credential due to the potential inability to meet Recency of Practice** requirements.

Requirements:

- Participate in **10 hours of professional supervision** within the first **12 months** of return to the APD Program.
- Submit a **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Plan** for the first year of return to the APD Program.
- Log all CPD into the Dietitians Australia portal.
- Meet annual APD continuous professional development and recency of practice requirements.
- Undergo a **mandatory audit** after the first full year back in the APD Program.

Pathway 3. Retest Pathway – Examination-Based Re-entry, Supervised Return to APD

Eligibility:

- No dietetic practice in the past **five years**.
- Does not meet Recency of Practice requirements.

Requirements:

- Must sit and pass the **DSR Examinations**.
- Participate in **10 hours of professional supervision** within the first **12 months** of return to the APD Program.
- Submit a **Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Plan** for the first year.
- Log all CPD into the Dietitians Australia portal.
- Meet annual APD continuous professional development and recency of practice requirements.
- Undergo a **mandatory audit** after the first full year back in the APD Program.

Ongoing Requirements and Oversight

All returning and eligible dietitians are expected to meet and comply with the Dietitians Australia APD Program's professional, quality and ethical standards.

Dietitians who fail to meet the requirements during their first year of return to the APD Program, such as participation in supervision, completion of CPD, or successful audit—may have their APD status reviewed and potentially revoked. In such cases, the **Dietitian and Nutritionist Regulatory Council (DNRC)** will make individual assessments and advise accordingly.

References

Ducat W, Kumar S. A systematic review of professional supervision experiences and effects for allied health practitioners working in non-metropolitan health care settings. J Multidiscip Healthc. 2015;8:397-407.

NASRHP Membership Standards Users Guide [NASRHP-Standards-May-2024.pdf](#)

Policy versions and updates

Policy	Update history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Resumption of Accredited Practice Policy 2020.	Replaced by: Resumption of Accredited Practising Dietitian (RoAPD) Policy – endorsed by the Board [August, 2025]