

## Your submission

Thank you for notification received on 16 March 2017 of the formal review of the *Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993* currently being undertaken by the Attorney-General's Department, and the opportunity to update our previous submission.

Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA) request the inclusion of Accredited Exercise Physiologists to be included in the list of persons before whom a statutory declaration may be made.

Exercise & Sports Science Australia is the peak professional body and sole accrediting authority for Accredited Exercise Physiologists.

Accredited Exercise Physiologists (AEPs) are qualified allied health professionals specialising in the delivery of exercise for the prevention and management of chronic disease and injuries, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, mental illness, cancer, arthritis and pulmonary disease. They hold, at a minimum, a 4-year bachelor degree in exercise science/exercise physiology that meets the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Level 7 requirements.

The requirement for maintaining accreditation as an AEP with ESSA include:

- Holding and maintaining a valid first aid and CPR certificate
- Holding and maintaining appropriate professional indemnity insurance
- Completing an annual continuing professional program comprising 20 points per annum
- Upholding the ESSA Code of Professional Conduct and Ethical Practice

Most commonly, AEPs work in private or multidisciplinary clinics, workplace occupational rehabilitation, public and private hospitals and the community health setting.

There are a number of allied health professionals listed on the Attorney General's website as able to witness a statutory declaration, including Chiropractors, Dentists, Nurses, Optometrists, Pharmacists, Physiotherapists and Psychologists.

AEPs are allied health professionals who must have their accreditation registered with ESSA. AEPs are eligible to register with Medicare Australia, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and WorkCover. Holding accreditation with ESSA as an AEP is the requirement to apply for a Medicare provider number and therefore be eligible for these services.

There are currently over 4,000 AEPs across all states and territories of Australia, with broad exposure to the Australian public.

ESSA is submitting this request for Accredited Exercise Physiologists to be included in the list of persons before whom a statutory declaration may be made, for the purposes of consistency and equality with other allied health professionals, and to provide a beneficial service to the public.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or [REDACTED] [REDACTED] should you require any further information.

Kind Regards

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