

## **Alternative Pathway Protocol – Certificate of Assessment (COA)**

Under AMDRAS clause 34(b)

19<sup>th</sup> June 2025

1. The Board acknowledges that Recognised Providers may be asked to recognise prior learning of applicants for the Certificate of Assessment required for initial accreditation as Accredited Mediators.
2. Under the AMDRAS clause 35(a), Recognised Providers (RPs) are entitled to certify that an applicant has satisfied the requirements for a Certificate of Assessment by an alternative pathway.
3. As a matter of general practice, the Board considers that applicants who have met the requirements of a Certificate of Training by an alternative pathway ought to obtain a Certificate of Assessment according to Part 4 Division 6 of AMDRAS.
4. Nevertheless, the Board considers it reasonable for an RP to certify a Certificate of Assessment according to an alternative pathway if the applicant has completed an assessment outside Australia (**'Assessment'**) substantially equivalent to the Certificate of Assessment process provided under AMDRAS. The Board expects that an RP will satisfy itself that the time spent by the applicant, the nature of the skills assessed, and the qualifications of the assessor will have been substantially equivalent to the relevant requirements described in Part 4, Division 6, and Appendix 1 of AMDRAS. In particular, the Assessment must have included a written and a practical component substantially equivalent to the AMDRAS requirements.
5. If an applicant is seeking a Certificate of Assessment through an alternative pathway, and their original assessment was completed more than 12 months prior to the application date, or if the assessment did not meet any of the essential elements of AMDRAS Assessment, a Recognised Provider may reasonably require the applicant to complete further assessment following the AMDRAS standards and Professional Attributes before granting a Certificate of Assessment by an alternative pathway.
6. An RP may charge a fee to facilitate any additional assessment requirements.
7. Any Certificate of Assessment granted according to an alternative pathway must state on the certificate that the certification has been given by an alternative pathway and include relevant information. The

Board has provided a templated Alternative Pathway Certificate of Training which contains the information to be provided.

8. Any Recognised Accreditation Provider (RAP) must comply with Part 4 Division 9 of AMDRAS regarding applications for accreditation. Any RAP subsequently asked to grant accreditation based on an Alternative Pathway Certificate may require a copy of the evidence of the alternative pathway provided by the applicant to obtain the certificate.
9. In exceptional circumstances, the Board may approve an application from a Recognised Provider to waive compliance with any one or more requirements for initial accreditation under clause 19 of AMDRAS. The waiver application must provide evidence demonstrating that the applicant's training and experience are at least equivalent to the standards expected of an AMDRAS-accredited mediator.
10. When considering applications for alternative pathways the board reminds recognised providers of the boards auditing and complaint handling powers under clauses 80 and 81 of AMDRAS respectively.