

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
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QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 17th OCTOBER 2022
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 24th OCTOBER 2022**

Question

In relation to Allied Health Professionals, will the Minister explain –

- (a) the role of the Chief Allied Health Professional;
- (b) who is considered to be an Allied Health Professional;
- (c) how are they regulated; and
- (d) what minimum qualification level is required?

Answer

- (a) The Chief of Allied Health Professions is accountable for leading the delivery of strategic, clinical and professional management of allied health professionals within Health & Community Services.
- (b) The following are considered to be allied health professionals:
 - Physiotherapists
 - Occupational therapists
 - Speech & language therapists
 - Dietetics
 - Podiatrists
 - Practitioner psychologists
 - Biomedical scientists
 - Orthoptists
 - Radiographers
 - Hearing aid dispensers; and
 - Operating department practitioners.
- (c) Allied health professionals are professionally regulated through the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
- (d) Depending on the allied health profession, different education and training programmes are required to ensure HCPC proficiency standards are met.

The HCPC normally expects that the following threshold entry routes to the HCPC register:

A bachelor honours degree for:

- Physiotherapists
- Occupational therapists
- Speech & language therapists
- Dietetics
- Podiatrists
- Biomedical scientists

- Physiologists
- Orthoptists; and
- Radiographers

A diploma of higher education for:

- Operating department practitioners

And a professional doctorate for:

- Clinical and counselling psychologists.