VETASSESS

Information sheet

Massage Therapist

ANZSCO: 411611 | **Group C**

About this document

- The following Information Sheet is for your reference only and should be used as a guide to assist with your Skills Assessment application to VETASSESS. This information is subject to change.
- Please note that a Skills Assessment of the qualification involves assessment of both the qualification level and content. Qualifications are assessed according to the guidelines published by the Australian Government Department of Education.
- The employment assessment involves determining the skill level and relevance of the tasks undertaken.
- Integrity checks may be conducted to verify the qualification and employment claims made in an application.

Job description

A Massage Therapist performs therapeutic massage and administers body treatments for relaxation, health, fitness and remedial purposes.

Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- Chinese (Tui-Na) Masseur
- Remedial Masseur
- Shiatsu Therapist
- Sports Medicine Masseur
- Thai Masseur

Occupations not considered under this ANZSCO code:

Physiotherapist

Personal Assistant

Fitness Instructor

Beauty Therapist

These occupations are classified elsewhere in ANZSCO or are not at the required skill level.

Massage Therapist is a VETASSESS Group C occupation

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher. Applicants can fulfil the assessment criteria for this occupation in four different ways.

GROUP C	Criteria for a positive Skills Assessment			
Post-qualification Pathways				
	Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level	**With highly relevant major field of study**	**Additional highly relevant qualifications**	**Highly relevant employment duration**
1	AQF +	+	N/A +	1 YEAR minimum
2	AQF +	No highly relevant major +	AQF Minimum AQF Certificate IV level with highly relevant major +	1 YEAR minimum
3	AQF +	No highly relevant major +	No additional highly relevant qualifications +	2 YEARS minimum
Pre-qualification Pathway				
	Highly Relevant employment duration			**Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level**
4	3 YEARS minimum + 1 YEAR minimum + Within last 5 years		With or without highly relevant major field of study +	AQF

Description of Pathways

The information below describes the available pathways for a Skills Assessment under **Group C** . Please note that in order to achieve a successful Skills Assessment Outcome, a suitable assessment for both qualifications and employment is required.

Pathway 1

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 2

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

An additional qualification in a highly relevant field of study at a minimum AQF Certificate IV level is required. Additional qualifications in a highly relevant field of study include those comparable to the AQF Certificate IV.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

For example, an applicant for the occupation Program or Project Administrator completed a non-relevant AQF Diploma qualification in April 2024 and later completed an AQF Certificate IV in Project Management in May 2026. The applicant commenced employment with the organisation in May 2024 and remains employed there.

Under Pathway 2, the applicant satisfies the minimum educational requirement for a Group C occupation through the AQF Diploma qualification. Accordingly, employment is counted from the completion date of the Diploma qualification, meaning employment from May 2024 onwards may be considered toward both the required Qualifying Period (QP) and any remaining eligible period for the points test.

As the later Certificate IV qualification is highly relevant to the occupation, the applicant may access the reduced employment requirement applicable under Pathway 2. In this case, only one year of QP is required, and that employment may be counted from the post-Diploma period rather than from the Certificate IV qualification completion date.

Pathway 3

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **two** years of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 4

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher with or without a highly relevant major field of study to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **four** years of employment at an appropriate skill level that includes at least **one** year of highly relevant employment within the last five years before applying,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Qualification

Highly relevant major fields of study include:

- Massage Therapy
- Remedial Massage
- Traditional Chinese Medicine Remedial Massage
- Shiatsu and Oriental Therapies
- Reflexology and Sports Massage.

This includes qualifications assessed at AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level.

Employment

Highly relevant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Massaging the soft tissues of the body, such as muscles, tendons and ligaments, to assist healing
- Utilising a range of massage techniques to enhance sports performance and prevent injury
- Administering treatments to promote relaxation, improve circulation and relieve muscle tension
- Assessing and treating specific soft tissue dysfunction and providing rehabilitation advice
- Employing other techniques, such as acupressure or Shiatsu, and complementary aids, such as infra-red lamps, wet compresses, ice, essential oils and herbal and mineral therapies, to assist recovery
- Assessing a client's physical condition and case history and advising on stretching exercises and relaxation techniques

Employment information

Massage Therapists are often self-employed or working as a contractor for a massage clinic. They also commonly work in the following industries:

- Health and fitness industry (clinics, sports clubs and gymnasiums)
- Sports industry (sporting teams, clubs and individual athletes)
- Recreation and tourism industry (hotels, health resorts and retreats)
- Medical and pharmaceutical industry (medical centres)

Supporting material for assessment

When applying for a Skills Assessment, please ensure you submit sufficient evidence supporting proof of identity, qualification and employment claims. A full list of the documents required can be found on the VETASSESS website under Eligibility Criteria. If you are self-employed or working as a contractor, you are required to provide the following:

a) Evidence of self-employment such as sole trading or business registration details and / or official statements issued by your (registered) accountant and / or legal team. The statement from your accountant or solicitor must include the accountant's or solicitor's letterhead, your full name, how long you have been continuously self-employed (including official dates in each role), the nature of the business conducted, and the signature and contact details of the accountant or solicitor. b) A statutory declaration listing your main duties during self-employment.

c) Payment evidence showing regular income from self-employment, such as client invoices together with corresponding bank statements and / or official taxation records.

d) Supplementary evidence, such as contracts with clients or suppliers, client testimonials, evidence of projects completed, or other documents that support your application.