Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health + Social Care Professionals

Statutory Regulation for Social Care Workers

Ginny Hanrahan, CEO and Registrar, CORU

Social Care Ireland Annual Conference, Carlow

29 March 2023

CORU's Mission

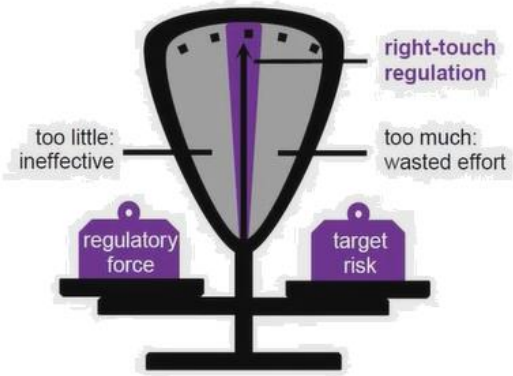
> "To protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct and professional education, training and competence among registrants of the designated professions"
>
> (Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005)

Professional Regulatory Interventions

- Improve quality of care
- Set standards of competency
- Encourage continuing professional development and education
- Identify the competence of the individual practitioner
- Reassure the public about the competence of health and social care professionals

Sunderland and Leatherman (Oct 2006)

Right Touch Regulation Principles



Regulators must be

- **Proportionate:** only intervene where necessary
- **Consistent:** rules and standards are fair
- **Targeted:** focused on the problem
- **Transparent:** be open - keep regulations simple and user friendly
- **Accountable:** must justify decisions and be subject to public scrutiny
- **Agile:** must look forward and be able to adapt to anticipate change

CORU

Registration
Recognition
Fitness to Practise
Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics
Safer Registrants
CPD
Education

CORU's Regulated Health and Social are Professionals

Phase 1
In Legislation

- Clinical Biochemists
- Orthoptists

Phase 2
Establishment
(Meeting 1 to Open Register)

- Psychologists
- Counsellors & Psychotherapists

Phase 3
Transition
(From Day Register Opens to end of Transition)

- Social Care Workers (30-30/11/23)

Phase 4
Business as Usual

- Social Workers
- Dietitians
- Radiographers & Radiation Therapists
- Speech & Language Therapists
- Physiotherapists & Physical Therapists
- Dispensing Opticians
- Occupational Therapists
- Optometrists
- Podiatrists & Chiropodists (31/03/23)
- Medical Scientists

Registers at CORU as of 13 March 2023

Register	Registrants
Social Workers	5175
Radiographers	2993
Radiation Therapists	496
Dietitians	1334
Occupational Therapists	3391
Speech and Language Therapists	2279
Optometrists	976
Dispensing Opticians	214
Physiotherapists	5619
Medical Scientists	2666
Podiatrists	159
Total	25,302

2022/3 Highlights: Protecting the Public

25,302
Registered

Recognition 1.307 app/ for 2022

Progressing
Counsellors, Psychotherapists Psychologists - next steps

20 **Course approval/monitoring** for 7 professions

SCW courses approved: 30

Reg/Rec Appeals

92 to date

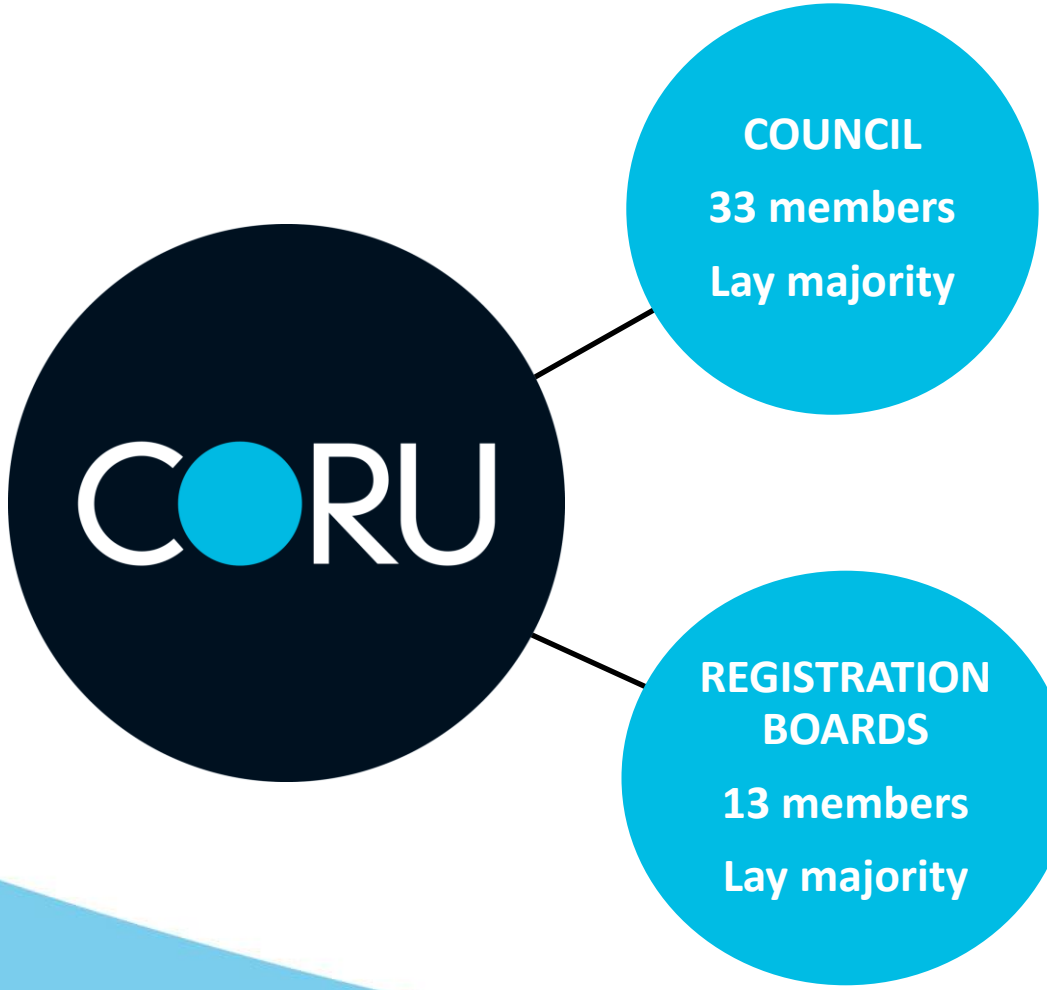
Section 60s
9 to date (1-2 pa)

Social Care Workers
register open

Complaints/ Fitness to Practise

55

Council and Registration Boards



- Co-ordinate and oversee Registration Boards
- Fitness to Practise
- Corporate Functions

- Registration
- Education
- Recognition of qualifications
- Continuing Professional Development

Social Care Workers Registration Board members

Public Members

- Lisa Molloy
- Jessica Bartak Healy
- Anne Marie Cullen
- Patrick McGarty
- Dr Joseph McVeigh

Professional Members

- Noelle Reilly
- Helena Doody (Chair)

Appointments awaited

Social Care Workers Register

- To Open

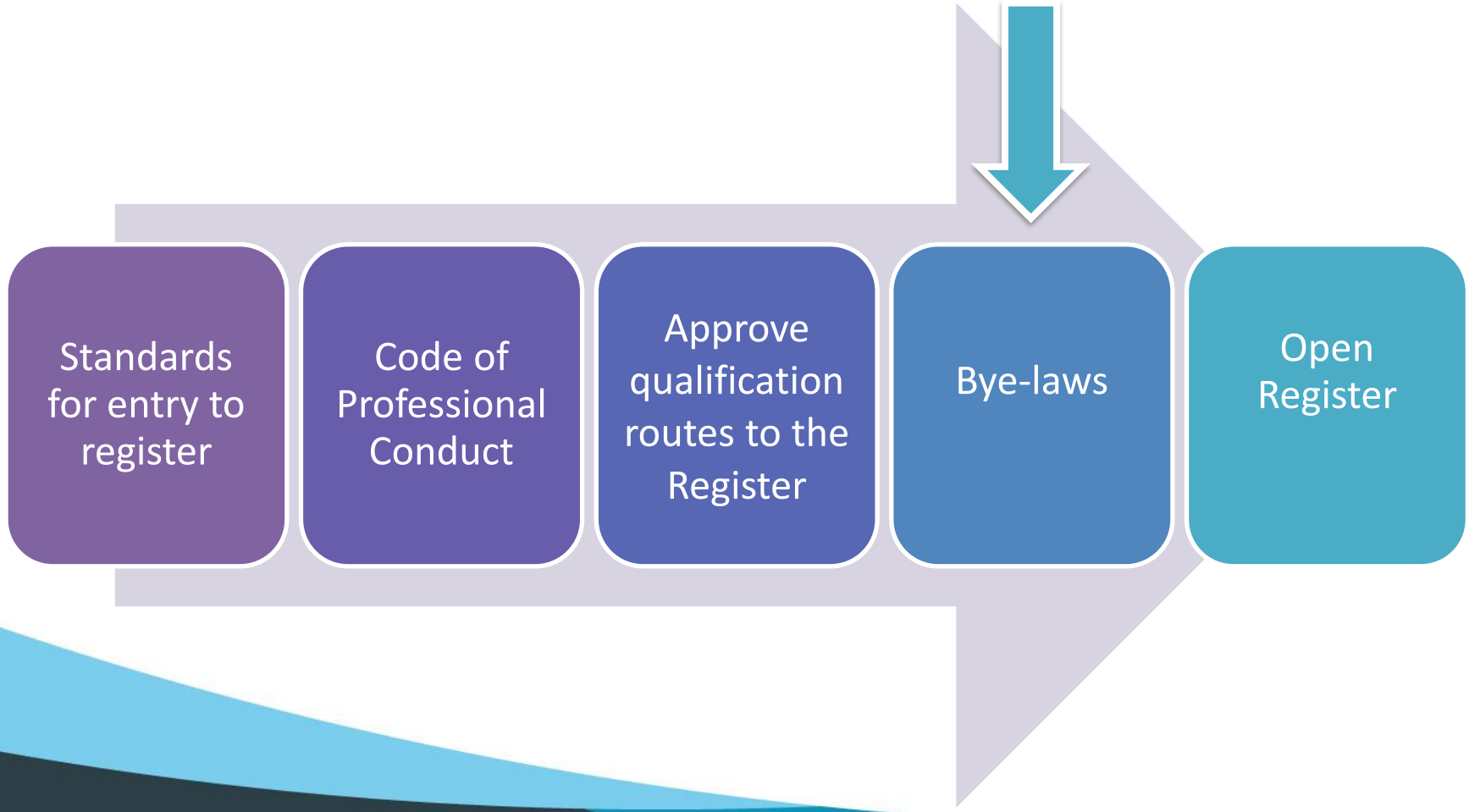
- **30 November 2023**

- Grandparenting/transition period closes

- **30 November 2025**

Regulation of Social Care Workers

Where social care workers are on the road to regulation:

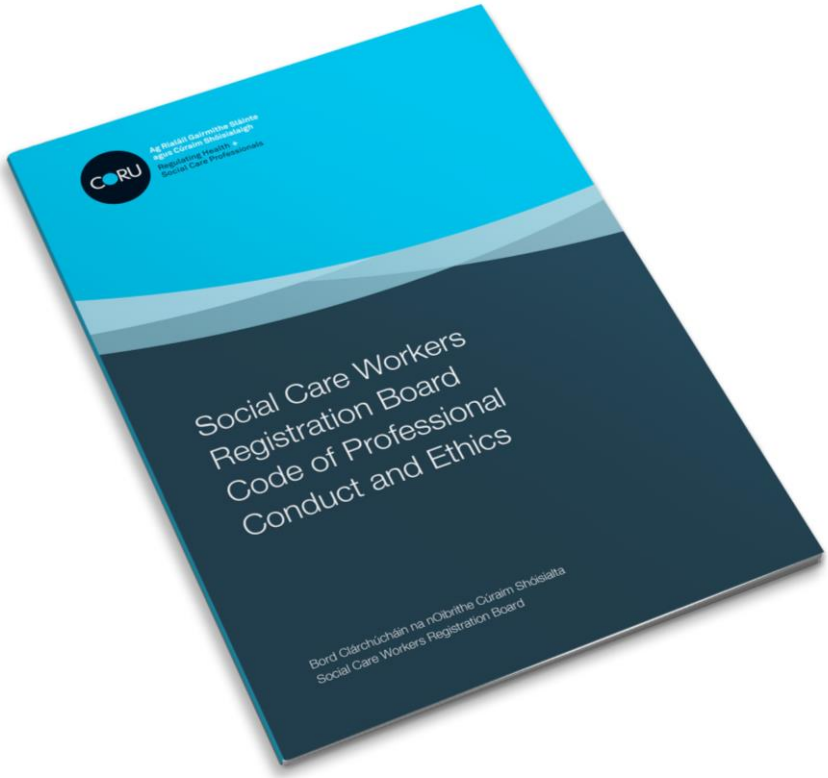


In Place to Open the Register

- **REGISTRATION**
  - Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics (done)
  - Engaged in the Practice of the Profession
  - Fit and proper policy
  - Language
  - Competent Authority
- **EDUCATION**
  - Criteria and Standards of Proficiency for Education and Training (done)
  - Course/Qualifications Approval (done)

Update on Approval of the Social Care Workers Educational Courses

Code of Conduct and Ethics



Available to download from CORU Website

Bye Laws to be in place before 30/11/23 – starts May 2023

- **Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Care Workers (in place)**
- Application for Registration
- Return to Practice
- Restoration to the Register following Removal on Request
- Restoration to the Register following Cancellation of Registration
- Approved Qualifications
- Elections

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Regulating Health + Social Care Professionals

Registration

Our Commitment to the Registration Process

- Fair, transparent, and equitable
- Catering to various stages of career development
- Ensuring public trust in registered professionals

Who Can Apply?

- Current social care workers
- Students undertaking qualifications
- Graduates
- Professionals returning to the field

Routes to Registration

Standard Route to Registration

S38

Grandparenting Route

S91

Registration Requirements

- User-friendly and streamlined application process
- Visit the CORU website to get started
- Evidence of Qualification(s)
- Evidence of Identity
- Fit and Proper Questionnaire (Health & Character)

Additional Requirements

- ❑ eVetting and international Police Clearance
- ❑ Statutory Declaration
- ❑ Confirmation of good standing with other international regulator
- ❑ Employment History/Evidence of Practice (S91)/(S38)

Additional Fee / Next Steps

- €100 fee required for application processing
- Secure payment options available
- Visit www.coru.ie to begin your application on the 30 November 2023

The Standard Route (Section 38)

- For new entrants and returning professionals
- Applicable for CORU-recognized international qualifications
- Open for the lifetime of the register
- Adapts to evolving requirements and bye-laws
- Language testing and return-to-practice provisions when needed

Grandparenting (Section 91)

- Open for two years from the date the register first opens
- Transition period for existing practitioners to statutory regulation/registration
- Legal provisions under s91 for professionals practicing in the State
- Recognizes equivalent qualifications, employer opinions, and reciprocal arrangements
- Assessment of Professional Competence for applicants without qualifications
- Requires evidence of engagement in the profession for 2 out of 5 years on the date of application

Employment Eligibility as a Social Care Worker

Use Protected Title

Social Care Worker

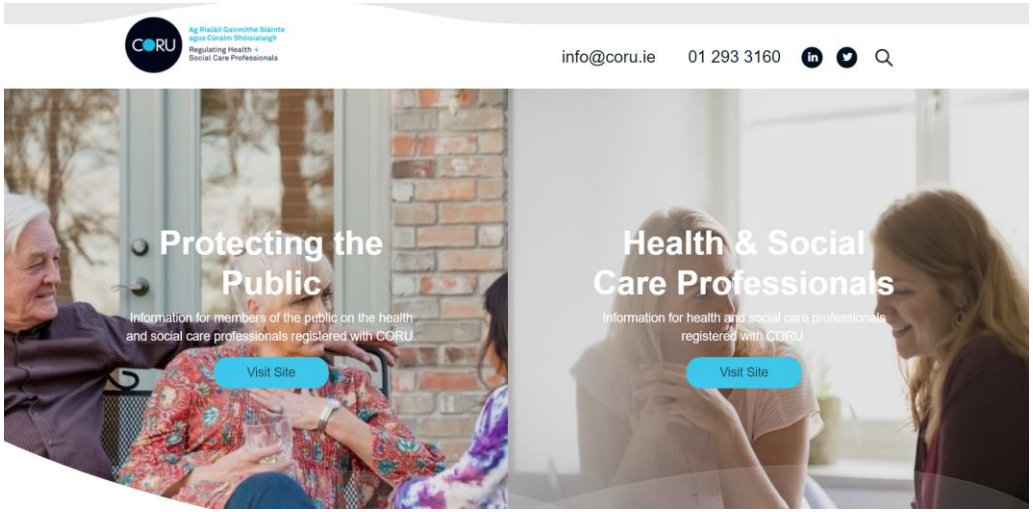
Registered

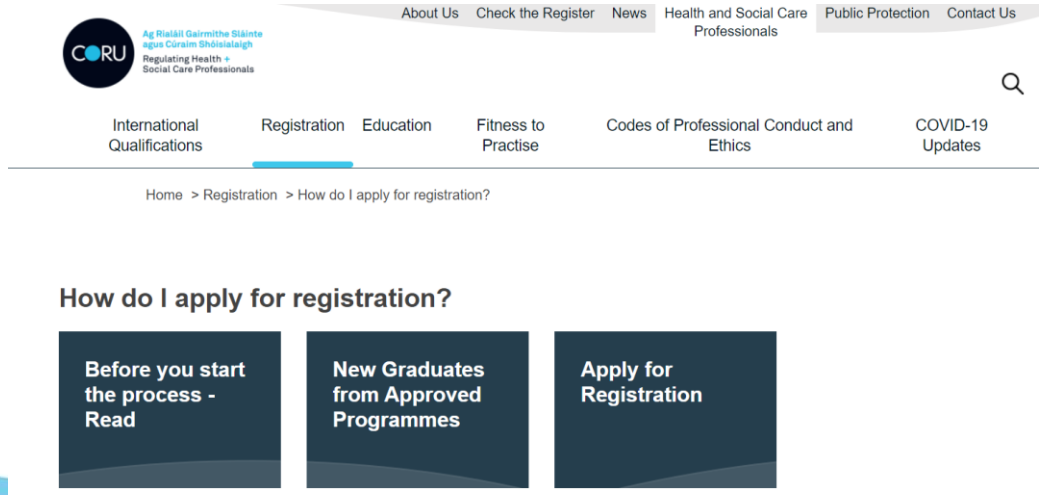
Social Care Workers Registration Board

In summary…

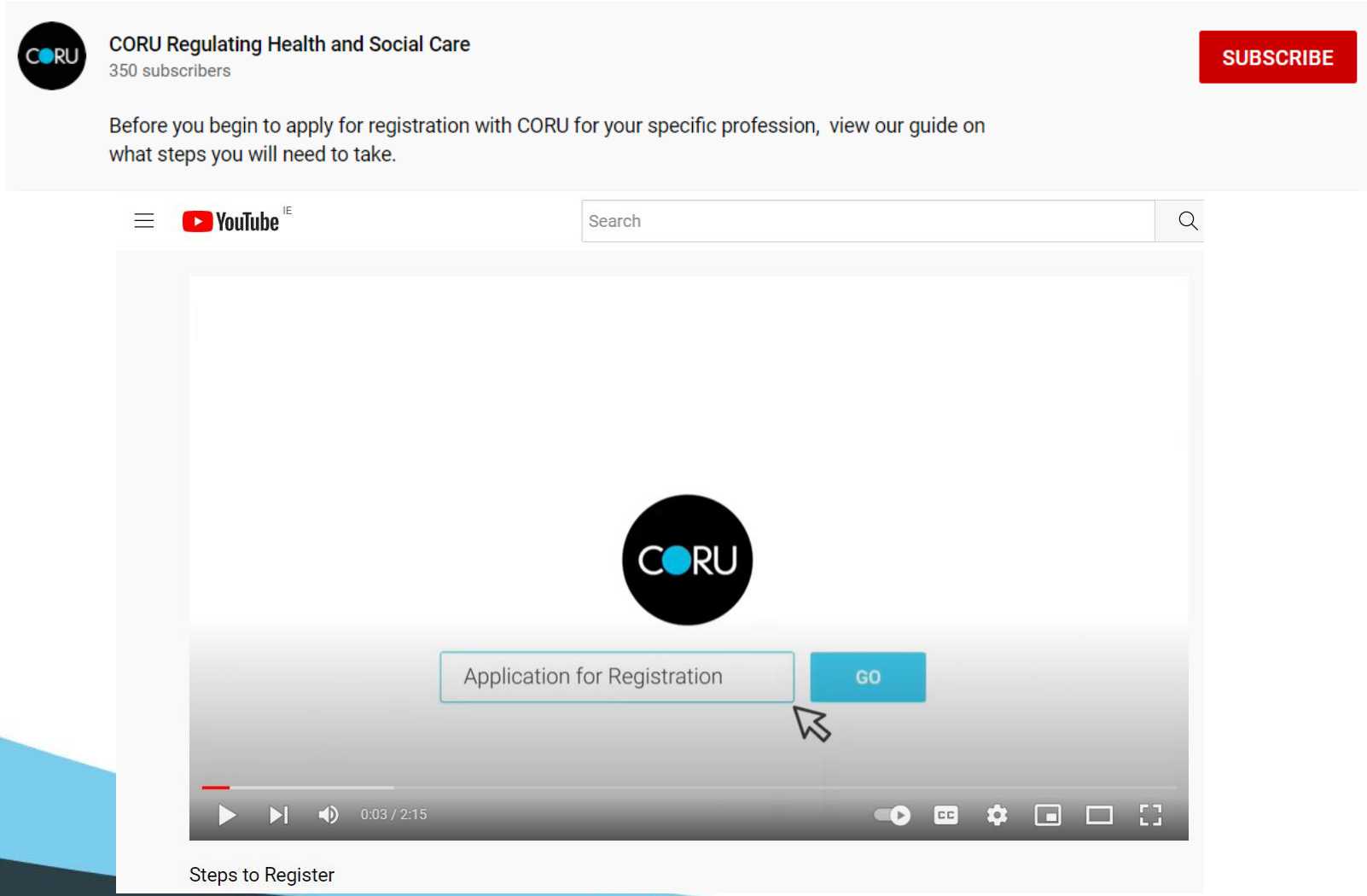
- Board is working towards opening the register
- Existing practitioners have 2 routes onto the register
- It is the social care worker's responsibility to be registered
- Employer's role is to ensure employment practices reflect registration requirements
- Using the protected title – must be registered

Visit www.CORU.ie for registration guidance





Steps to Register Video



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CORU publishes a quarterly newsletter providing updates on the progress we are making in developing a system of regulation for Ireland's health and social care professionals.

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Thank you