



Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

COMMUNIQUÉ – 22 April 2010

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the AHWMC) is pleased to announce that it has today made the following decisions in relation to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health practitioners (the national scheme).

Nursing and midwifery accreditation

Ministers are pleased to appoint a restructured Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) to exercise accreditation functions under the national scheme for the nursing and midwifery professions. This important decision is made pursuant to section 9 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*.

This appointment is for a period of 3 years from 1 July 2010, which is in line with assignments previously made for the other nine health professions in the national scheme.

In making this decision, Ministers note that the current ANMC is in the process of undertaking a major governance and organisational restructure in order to place the organisation in the best position to independently and effectively deliver accreditation functions for the nursing and midwifery professions in Australia. Ministers asked to receive regular reports on implementation of this restructure.

Dental Board of Australia – scope of practice registration standard

Ministers are also pleased to announce the decision to approve the Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice standard.

In making this decision, Ministers noted the release of the Dental Board's 26 March 2010 Meeting Communiqué. The communiqué clarifies that the Standard is drafted to reflect the current scope of practice which exists in Australia and that oral health therapists, dental therapists, and dental hygienists will be able to meet the supervision requirements of the standard through ensuring that a structured professional relationship exists with a dentist who can be consulted as necessary and via any means.

In addition, Ministers have asked the Dental Board to review the approved standard 12 to 18 months after it takes effect, to formally assess whether the approved standard has had any unintended and negative impacts on the scope of practice of oral health therapists, dental therapists, and dental hygienists.

Ministers have also agreed that an AHMAC working party is to be established to review the roles and scope of practice of therapists and hygienists prior to the Board review of the approved scope of practice standard.

Ministers' approval of the standard is in accordance with the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* and is made today to assist the Dental Board to implement the proposal in the lead-up to the national scheme's commencement. As such, the approved scope of practice standard will not come into force until the full commencement of the national scheme on 1 July 2010.

The Dental Board's communiqué clarifying the supervision requirements and how they might operate in rural and remote areas and the AHWMC approved scope of practice standard can be accessed from the Board's website - at www.dentalboard.gov.au

On 31 March 2010, Ministers' decided to approve a number of national health practitioner registration standards and related proposals, to take effect on 1 July 2010, as recommended by the ten National Boards established under the National Scheme. The list of approved registration standards and related proposals has been updated to include today's decision, and is attached to this communiqué.

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APPROVED NATIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION STANDARDS – UPDATED 22 APRIL 2010

National Board	Approved registration standards & related proposals to take effect on 1/07/2010
Chiropractic Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦
Dental Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards • Scope of practice registration standard • Area of Practice endorsement (conscious sedation) • Specialist registration
Medical Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Standard for limited registration (area of need) • Standard for limited registration (postgraduate training or supervised practice) • Specialist registration
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Endorsement for nurse practitioners registration standard • Endorsement for scheduled medicines (Registered Nurses) for Rural and Isolated Practice
Optometry Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Endorsement for scheduled medicines (optometrists) – topical medicines for the treatment of conditions of the eye
Osteopathy Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦
Pharmacy Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦ (excluding professional indemnity insurance) • Examinations for general registration standard • Supervised practice standard
Physiotherapy Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦
Podiatry Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Specialist registration • Endorsement for scheduled medicines
Psychology Board of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory registration standards ♦ • General registration standard • Provisional registration standard • Area of practice endorsement – 7 areas, namely: clinical psychology, counselling psychology, forensic psychology, clinical neuropsychology, organisational psychology, sport and exercise psychology, and educational and developmental psychology

♦ **Note:** ‘Mandatory registration standards’ includes (in all cases), registration standards for:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing Professional Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recency of Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Indemnity Insurance 	