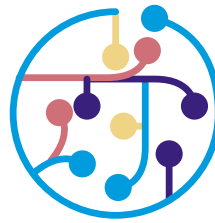# Information for employers: Consultation on a draft Data strategy

We hold, publish and share data about all registered health practitioners in Australia, including through the public register.

Where possible, exchanging data with employers of health practitioners can help improve the safety and quality of healthcare, assist with workforce planning and contribute to patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

We want your input on how we use and share the data we hold about registered health practitioners.

What are we consulting on?

We're seeking general feedback on the draft Data strategy as well as feedback on three focus areas: the public register, data sharing and advanced analytics.

Public register

Employers rely on the public register to check that the health practitioners they employ are registered and allowed to practise. We want to hear about what additional information we could include on the public register that would help you.

Currently, we do not publish information about a health practitioner's disciplinary history on the public register. This information is likely to be of interest to the public when making decisions about their healthcare. We are seeking your views on publishing practitioners' disciplinary history on the public register.

Data sharing

The National Law[1] enables us to share data with certain organisations to protect the public, including courts and Medicare.

We take our privacy and confidentiality obligations very seriously.[2] We will never share identifiable information unless we have a legal reason to do so (e.g. publishing information about health practitioners on the public register and sharing that information with employers via the Practitioner Information Exchange service).

Sharing the data we hold could improve understanding of the health workforce and help you with workforce planning. We want to hear from you about our data that would interest and benefit you (where we are legally allowed to share).

Advanced analytics

Advanced analytics and machine learning technologies could help make our regulatory work more efficient and effective. For example, new data technologies can help us identify risk factors in healthcare. Sharing this information could support you to identify and mitigate risks and facilitate safer healthcare, including cultural safety, in your practice or health service.

We want to hear your thoughts about how Ahpra should approach using advanced analytics and machine learning technologies to improve practitioner regulation and patient care.

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1   Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory
2   Ahpra's Privacy Policy

Have your say on our draft Data strategy by 31 January 2023

To learn more about our draft Data strategy, please read our consultation paper.

To make a submission and give feedback on any or all aspects of the draft Data strategy, please use the online form, or email your submission to AhpraConsultation@ahpra.gov.au.