

Expression of Interest – Evidence guide for advanced practice paramedic and independent prescribing capabilities

27 November 2025

Overview

Title of engagement: The development of an evidence guide for advanced practice paramedic capabilities

The Paramedicine Board of Australia (Board) is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from external persons to develop an evidence guide for advanced practice paramedic capabilities.

Closing date: 4 January 2026

Contact: Paul Fisher, Executive Officer Paramedicine

Background

The National Board

In October 2017, the COAG Health Council appointed the inaugural Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board). The National Board works in partnership with 14 other National Boards and Ahpra to implement the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme). The aim of the National Scheme is to protect the public by ensuring that only suitably trained and qualified practitioners who practice safely and ethically are registered.

Ahpra

Ahpra provides support to the National Boards for each profession covered by the scheme, in exercising their functions and administers procedures to ensure the efficient and effective operations of the National Boards. This includes any state and territory boards and committees established by the National Boards.

The services provided by Ahpra to the National Boards employ best practice approaches to regulation and cover registration functions, the management of a national public register of health practitioners, the receipt of complaints on behalf of the National Boards and, subject to decisions by states and territories, responsibility to the National Boards for the highest standards of professional investigations and disciplinary prosecutions.

Ahpra is responsible for engaging external bodies on behalf of National Boards.

Advanced Practice Paramedicine

The Board is completing a program of work to explore the options for regulating advanced practice paramedics. The Board has recently approved a set of capabilities for *Paramedic Practitioners* which covers capabilities for both advanced practice paramedicine and the independent prescribing of scheduled medicines. The Board has recently consulted on a model for a pair of linked endorsement under the National Law supported by these capabilities.

Advanced practice in paramedicine is a higher level of paramedicine practice than extended practice. It uses knowledge, skills and experiences across clinical and professional paramedicine domains integrated with capabilities in education, research and leadership to enable practice with a broadened level of responsibility and scope of practice. Advanced Practice is characterised by access to diagnostics and critical thinking, clinical reasoning, decision making and problem-solving skills developed to the level of an advanced practice practitioner.

Drawing on the profession's foundational practice in first contact care across ages and acuities, advanced practice paramedics will be expected to combine elements of advanced urgent/critical care paramedicine, advanced primary care paramedicine and independent prescribing (Model 1 prescribing of the Health Professions Prescribing Pathway^{12F1}) to manage mainly acute/urgent episodes of care, influence health outcomes and provide care tailored to the needs of the community.

For the purposes of this document, advanced critical care paramedicine is defined as the provision of advanced emergency paramedicine care for acute and deteriorating conditions across a range of practice environments, and advanced primary care paramedicine is defined as the provision of paramedicine care for acute and non-acute conditions usually as part of an interprofessional, multidisciplinary or transprofessional teams' approach across a range of practice environments.

Capabilities for Paramedic Practitioner

The Board has approved professional capabilities that describe competent and safe advanced paramedicine practice and independent prescribing of scheduled medicines – Capabilities for Paramedic Practitioners. When applying for endorsement, applicants' competence will be determined against these professional capabilities.

The capabilities identify the minimum knowledge, skills and professional attributes needed for safe and competent practice at the advanced practice level. The capabilities will be used by education providers to design and implement a curriculum for programs of study, and will be applied by the Board, as appropriate, to perform its regulatory functions. They will support employers, other health practitioners and the community to understand what these endorsed paramedics can do.

Development of evidence guide for *Paramedic Practitioner* capabilities is now required.

Expressions of interest - criteria

Expressions of interest (EOIs) will be considered and evaluated, and identified respondents shortlisted from the EOI process will be contacted as part of a request for proposal process (RFP) to move towards more formal arrangements. EOIs will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Relevant experience in capability and evidence guide development and implementation

All EOIs will need to demonstrate that they have relevant experience in the development and implementation of capability frameworks and evidence guides. Experience of this in the context of paramedic education or another health discipline is preferred.

2. Cost-effectiveness

To support the Board's decision-making it will be beneficial for EOIs to provide an indication of what the anticipated costs of the development of capabilities will be. Respondents invited for the second phase of this procurement (the RFP process) will need to provide more specific cost information as part of that stage of the process...

3. Availability and readiness to commence development of evidence guide

EOIs will need to contain information about when, subject to being selected, the external body will be ready to commence development of the evidence guide and the time frame for its production, including opportunities for feedback and review by the Board.

¹ Health Workforce Australia. Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway (HPPP) Project: Final report. Adelaide, Australia: Health Workforce Australia; 2013, available from <https://healthinfor.net.ecu.edu.au/key-resources/publications/26503/>

Timetable

Key timelines for the EOI process are indicated below. These dates are advised as a guide only to projected timelines. The National Board and Ahpra will try to maintain this schedule, but reserves the right to vary dates.

Date EOI released – 10 December 2025
Closing date for EOI – 4 January 2026, by 5:00pm, Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time
Review of submissions – January 2026
Request for proposal – January 2026
Notification of outcome – February 2026

Evaluation

Each EOI will be assessed against the criteria below.

Evaluation criteria
1. Relevant experience in the development and implementation of capabilities and evidence guides
2. Cost-effectiveness
3. Availability and readiness to commence development of capabilities in a timely manner

EOIs will be evaluated against the criteria listed above and scored using the following scale.

Evaluation	Score
Exceeds all aspects of the evaluation criterion	4
Exceeds some aspects of evaluation criterion (and meets all other aspects of the evaluation criterion)	3
Meets the evaluation criterion	2
Fails some aspects of the evaluation criterion	1
Fails all aspects of the evaluation criterion.	0

As advised above external bodies that are shortlisted as a result of this EOI process may be invited to participate in a selective Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

All submissions in the EOI process will be advised of the final outcome of their submission to this EOI process. The Board will publish the outcome of any RFP process.

Further information

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Board's Executive Officer Paul Fisher directly on 03 8708 9047 or by email (paul.fisher@ahpra.gov.au)