



Community News: Safer healthcare for you.

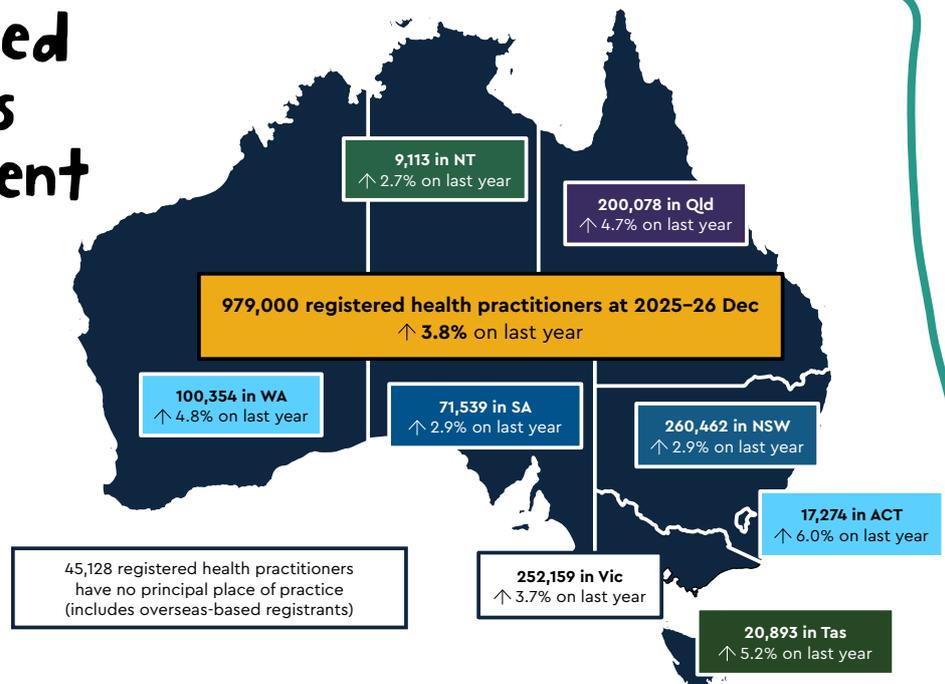
Welcome to the Ahpra and National Boards Community News. Summer 2026 Edition.

Let us introduce ourselves

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) and the 15 National Boards work in partnership to ensure Australia's registered health practitioners are suitably trained, qualified and safe to practise. Public safety is our priority.

Australian Registered Health Practitioners increase by 3.8 Per cent

As of December 2025, there are now a total of 979,000 Health Practitioners Registered in Australia. This is an increase of 3.8 per cent from December 2024. All states and territories have experienced growth in registration numbers, with the ACT experiencing the highest percentage growth of 6 per cent.



There's no Place for racism in healthcare

Every day, Australians put their trust in health practitioners to provide safe healthcare. Discrimination and racism break that trust and put lives at risk.

Registered health practitioners have codes of conduct they must follow. These codes require practitioners to provide all patients the respect they deserve and healthcare free from racism and discrimination.

If you have a concern about discrimination or unsafe practice you can call us on 1300 419 495. Or, you can [lodge a notification online via our website](#).



Use your phone to scan the QR codes and find out more

Greater Protection for People who raise concerns about health Practitioners

Recent changes to the law mean that people who raise concerns about health practitioners have new protections. It is now an offence to retaliate against anyone who raises concerns with regulators.

It's also an offence to use non-disclosure agreements that slow down, or prevent, investigations. Individuals and companies can be fined. Health practitioners might face disciplinary action.

The changes in the law also mean that there is more information published on the free, online, searchable [Register of practitioners](#). You can look up any registered health practitioner any time. Read more about the changes to the law in a [recent media release](#).



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New superannuation guidance makes expectations for doctors and dentists clear

We have new guidance for practitioners, like dentists and doctors who suggest you access your superannuation to pay for their services. We are worried that some businesses and health practitioners are putting their profit over your care by recommending overly expensive or unnecessary treatments.

The guidance says practitioners are expected to only approve treatments that are needed, and to conduct a proper assessment before signing off for use of your super. It also warns practitioners that they cannot provide financial advice unless licensed to.

You should only access your super as a last resort. If a practitioner is encouraging you to access your super to pay for their services, you can seek a second opinion and/or ask for other options.

In the next edition, we will share our information sheet for patients on using your super for treatment.

Finding a Practitioner that is right for me

You can use the [Public Register](#) to search for a type of practitioner by location (eg. dentist in Ascot Vale, 3032). You can then narrow your search by language or gender, helping you find a practitioner that's right for you.



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Stay in touch

We'd love to hear your feedback, especially if there are any topics you would like to know more about. Contact us at communitynews@ahpra.gov.au.



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