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Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Media release

18 February 2011

AHPRA welcomes outcome of Health Ministers Council

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has welcomed the outcome of discussions of the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council and the commitment of Ministers to work closely with AHPRA in the ongoing implementation of the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

“The introduction of national registration is a big and important health reform”, said AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher. “More than 520,000 health practitioners across 10 health professions are registered with the National Scheme.”

“We look forward to working together with governments and professional associations to fully realise the benefits of the national registration scheme for the Australian community, while improving our services to health practitioners,” he said.

The Chair of the AHPRA Agency Management Committee, Mr Peter Allen, along with Mr Fletcher briefed Ministers on the implementation of the National Scheme and actions to address issues raised in the first seven months of its operation. This includes:

- steps taken to improve phone and communication systems through the AHPRA state office network
- the fast tracking processes in place to assist registrants whose registration has lapsed and who wish to continue in practice
- immediate and scheduled upgrades to improve the range of online services for practitioners on the AHPRA website.

“We have developed new systems to support the more stringent requirements of the national scheme” said Mr Fletcher.

“We are now focused on making our processes as user-friendly as possible for practitioners, while continuing to meet our core responsibility to protect the public – after all, patient safety is at the heart of the national scheme,” he said.

Mr Fletcher welcomed governments’ commitment to additional resources to help improve efficiencies and practitioner services.

For more information

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