



Community News: Safer healthcare for You.

Welcome to the Ahpra and National Boards Community News. Winter 2025 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.

Superannuation to fund healthcare - do you need it?

Accessing your superannuation is an important safety net to get the urgent healthcare that you may need and not be able to afford, but it can also have long term financial impacts.

More people are accessing their super to fund dental and medical treatments and we're concerned some practitioners may be taking advantage of their patients. We are [working with the ATO](#) to make sure practitioners aren't putting their own financial gain ahead of their patient's best interests. If you think a practitioner was unnecessarily encouraging you to access your super, let us know. Anyone who has concerns about an individual registered health practitioner's professional performance or conduct can make a notification to Ahpra.



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

Do you have a concern about the care you've received?

If you've had a bad experience with a health practitioner, you have a right to complain. The best way is to raise it directly with them and see if you can resolve it straight away. If that's not possible, you have a few options depending on the type of complaint and what you would like to achieve. Call us on 1300 419 495 or visit our [website](#) to find out if you are in the right place.



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Did you know informed consent covers your data?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a great tool that can support innovation in healthcare, and practitioners may use an 'AI scribe' to take notes in a consultation giving them more time to focus on you.

Your healthcare provider must gain your consent if they wish to use an AI scribe during your appointment. This means you can ask questions about:

- where your data is stored
- how AI uses your information, and
- if there are any risks.

It also means that you can withdraw your consent at any time. We've issued [guidance to registered practitioners](#) about using AI. Talk to your practitioner about how they might be using AI for your healthcare today. The [Office of the Australian Information Commissioner](#) also has great resources on how health service providers can collect, use and disclose your health information.



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More Nurses and Midwives in Australia than ever

Each year registered health practitioners need to renew their registration with us to allow them to practise.

Nurses and Midwives have completed this process in May/June. On 30 June 2025 there were 532,620 registered nurses and midwives across Australia making them the largest number of health practitioners in the country.

Improving access to medical specialties

Ahpra and the Medical Board of Australia recently introduced new pathways for specialist international medical graduates. This 'fast track' registration pathway currently focuses on the specialties of General Practice, Anaesthesia, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Psychiatry, typically from graduates who qualified in Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. These pathways aim to get specialists into the workforce quicker while still ensuring they are competent and suitable to practice. At the end of June 2025, 178 applicants have been registered to work. More specialties are likely to be added to this pathway.

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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