



Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Health Practice  
Chinese Medicine  
Chiropractic  
Dental  
Medical  
Medical Radiation Practice  
Nursing and Midwifery  
Occupational Therapy  
Optometry  
Osteopathy  
Pharmacy  
Physiotherapy  
Podiatry  
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

## Agency Management Committee Communiqué

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August 2018

The 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of the [Agency Management Committee](#) (AManC) was held on Tuesday 21 August 2018 in Melbourne. This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the meeting.

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the meeting was being held and paid respect to their Elders, past and present.

### Chair's Report

Members noted the update provided by the Chair including:

- Forum of NRAS Chairs meeting held on 9/10 August 2018
- Farewells for retiring National Board Chairs and members – including at the recent Forum of NRAS Chairs meeting and also attended by Ms Barbara Yeoh.

### CEO Report

Members noted the written report from Mr Fletcher.

- CEO attendance at the COAG Health Council Meeting in Alice Springs on Thursday 2 August 2018. Mr Fletcher provided the regular update on the work of AHPRA and the National Scheme highlighting the Statement of Intent that was subsequently endorsed in the meeting Communiqué. AHPRA has been tasked with providing advice to Ministers on options for cultural safety for health practitioners. Ministers are also commissioning work on a wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce strategy which may provide a useful framework for suggested strategy work for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner workforce. Mr Fletcher also advised Ministers of the MBA's revised policy on publishing tribunal links on the National Register and will write to the Ministerial Council to confirm that this position is consistent with the intention of Professor Patterson's recommendations in the chaperone review report.
- The Woods report on the Accreditation Systems Review is expected to be considered by Ministers at their October meeting.
- Tranche 1A amendments to the National Law – proposed mandatory reporting amendments. Due to the tight timeframe for comments, it is proposed that the draft joint response will be circulated to the Agency Management Committee out of session for comment.
- On 6 August 2018, the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) published the Tranche 2 consultation paper on the COAG Health Council website. AHPRA released a statement to recognise the release of the consultation paper and to support broad input from interested stakeholders.
- AHPRA has been asked to appear before a Queensland Parliamentary Committee on Friday, 24 August 2018 to present on the Queensland complaints management system. Mr Fletcher will be appearing with Ms Rose Kent, Queensland State Manager and Dr Susan O' Dwyer, Chair of the Queensland Board of the Medical Board of Australia along with the Queensland Health Ombudsman.
- Mr Fletcher wrote to the Chair, AHMAC about vacancies arising on the Agency Management Committee for members whose terms are scheduled to expire in March 2019. Subject to any feedback, the process will start in September with the advertising of the vacancies.

- The audited financial Statements will be presented to the Finance and Audit Management Committee at its 28 August meeting, followed by an out of session circulation to AManC for approval.
- The new People and Culture Executive Director, Mr Mark Edwards has been appointed and he will commence on 3 September 2018.
- Mr Fletcher provided an overview of a recent episode of ABC Four Corners which highlighted concerns about the cosmetic surgery industry. The program included claims about a medical practitioner from Queensland. Ms Ayscough provided a factual overview of the claims about the Queensland practitioner and the circumstances that led to the Chair of the MBA seeking to reschedule the ABC interview.

A discussion occurred about the importance of correcting errors of fact and that AHPRA should be proactive when media reports are not correct.

Members also noted that a critical policy area for NRAS and governments (which is canvassed in the AHMAC tranche 2 consultation paper) is what regulatory actions should be available in the public domain. For example, when conditions are placed on a practitioner's registration but are removed in accordance with the National Law – should the fact that there were previous conditions be able to be disclosed? Further advice will be provided on current legislative provisions.

Members also sought further advice on options around the publication of greater information on the national registers and the role of the National Scheme in relation to concerns about patient safety and cosmetic surgery.

- Mr Robertson provided an update on the scheduled review of accreditation assignments. AHPRA has advised jurisdictions that the scheduled review is complete, and the Podiatry Board of Australia has decided that accreditation functions will be exercised by an accreditation committee. This information is now in the public domain. All other National Boards involved in the review will reassign the accreditation functions to external bodies or Committees and next steps involve negotiating terms for the next five year period.

### Business items

In other business items, the Committee:

- Approved the process for determining and approving Board Chair stipend arrangements as recommended by the Remuneration Committee and the proposed reporting arrangements,
- Noted a presentation from Assoc Prof Stephen Gough, Chair, Paramedicine Board of Australia and Mr Paul Fisher, Executive Officer Paramedicine with regards to the work undertaken to prepare for national registration of paramedics,
- Noted the strategies being put in place by AHPRA and the Board to minimise or mitigate the risk of unregistered paramedics at participation day,
- Noted the project outline, scope and timeframes with the project expected to be completed by September with a full report provided by consultants Truly Deeply on the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of its research,
- Noted the context and discussion regarding the proposed establishment of an international Regulatory Expert Advisory Group and approved the concept draft to engage a number of senior health research and regulation experts in the capacity of a Regulatory Expert Advisory Group – subject to consideration of the changes to the proposed membership,
- Noted the overview of major projects provided by the Executive Director Regulatory Operations and the draft AHPRA initiatives register and agreed that the format is helpful,
- Welcomed Mr Murray Smith to the role of AHPRA state manager, Victoria and noted the experience that Mr Smith brings to the role and the stakeholder engagement he has undertaken since commencing, and
- Approved the 2019 dates and locations for the Agency Management Committee meetings.

**Next meeting of the Agency Management Committee**

18 September 2018, Melbourne