



Australian Health Ministers' Conference

**Extract from
Communiqué
5 March 2009**

National registration and accreditation

Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a national registration and accreditation scheme for health professions reflecting the principles set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement. Members of the Ministerial Council noted substantial progress had been made in developing the scheme. It was agreed that Ministers would continue work on the scheme and reconvene again to consider further progress following the Queensland elections, when the Queensland Government is no longer in caretaker mode.

Progress made today on safety measures will deliver important protections to patients, specifically:

- Mandatory reporting of professionals who are placing the public at risk of harm. This means that other practitioners or employers (like hospitals) must report conduct which puts patients at harm, including practising under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or sexual misconduct.
- Mandatory criminal history and identity checks for all health professionals registering for the first time in Australia. All other registrants will be required to make an annual declaration on criminal history matters when they renew their registration.