



Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Nursing and Midwifery
Optometry

Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

AHPRA urges new graduates to apply early!

3 November 2010

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is urging students due to graduate from health profession courses later in 2010 to apply for registration early, to avoid year-end delays.

AHPRA estimates there will be up to 30,000 graduates nationally seeking registration with a National Board for their chosen health profession at the end of 2010. Graduates must be registered before they can start work.

AHPRA is introducing a streamlined pre-application process for new graduates.

“We are asking students to pre-apply for registration now, so AHPRA can begin the registration process, pending confirmation from education providers of successful graduation,” CEO Martin Fletcher said.

“We will start processing applications early, to avoid delays in processing a high volume of applications at the last minute,” he said.

Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*, (the National Law) as enacted in participating jurisdictions, there are additional requirements that graduates must meet before they are registered. This includes criminal history checks and identity verification. Some of these processes involve external agencies and can take time.

Graduates must also meet the registration standards set by National Boards, including related to English language skills, before being eligible for registration.

By pre-applying, students can support a smooth transition from graduation to registration and entering the workforce.

Details of the pre-application process are published on the AHPRA [website](#) including step-by-step instructions for new-graduates included in FAQs.

AHPRA is working with education providers on the pre-application process and will match certified lists of successful graduates with pre-applications received.

Psychology students are not eligible to apply through the pre-application process, as they must provide additional information with their application not available before they graduate.

“AHPRA is working with education providers, student groups, health departments and professional associations to raise awareness of the pre-application process,” Mr Fletcher said.

“We aim to streamline the registration process as far as possible for graduates and make the transition to the workforce as smooth as possible,” he said.

Media enquiries: Charmaine Dillon-Smith 07 3149 4734