



Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

HEALTH MINISTERS ANNOUNCE APPROVAL OF NATIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION STANDARDS

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council is pleased to announce that it has approved national health practitioner registration standards recommended by the ten National Boards established under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, as follows:

- A suite of mandatory registration standards, submitted by National Boards, that will apply to all health practitioners registered under the national scheme. These registration standards cover criminal history screening, English language requirements, continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements. However, with regard to the Pharmacy Board of Australia's professional indemnity insurance standard, Ministers decided to request that the Pharmacy Board of Australia review the proposed standard to ensure that it appropriately accommodates all practice settings, including for those pharmacists employed solely in the public sector.
- A series of board-specific registration standards relating to limited registration for medical practitioners, examinations for general registration for pharmacists, supervised practice for pharmacists, general registration for psychologists, and provisional registration for psychologists.
- Specialist registration standards, including approved lists of specialties and protected specialist titles, for medical specialists, dental specialists, and podiatric surgeons.
- A series of board-specific area of practice endorsements for suitably qualified dentists (conscious sedation), endorsement of nurse practitioners, and endorsement of seven areas of practice for suitably qualified psychologists. The seven approved areas of practice for psychology are clinical psychology, counselling psychology, forensic psychology, clinical neuropsychology, organisational psychology, sport and exercise psychology, and educational and developmental psychology. In approving these areas of practice, Ministers noted they are consistent with local and international categories for the psychology profession, such as branches of psychology in Western Australia and the recently recognised domains of practice in the United Kingdom.
- Standards for scheduled medicines endorsements for suitably qualified and registered optometrists, podiatrists, and rural and isolated practice registered nurses. In approving the endorsements, Ministers noted that it remains the responsibility of each State and Territory to decide how these endorsements may be incorporated into their respective drugs and poisons legislation, which gives practitioners legal authority to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, sell, supply, or use scheduled medicines.

A complete list of approved proposals is attached to this communiqué.

Ministers decided to defer consideration of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia's proposal for specialist registration for the physiotherapy profession, pending the development of national criteria for assessing such proposals.

Ministers also decided to defer consideration of the Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice standard until their next scheduled meeting to allow for further consideration.

Ministers decided to defer consideration of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's proposed scheduled medicines endorsement for eligible registered midwives, pending the outcome of further priority discussions between the Board, and Commonwealth, State and Territory officials, to clarify the range of measures necessary to implement midwife prescribing by 1 November 2010.

The efforts of each National Board in developing the registration standards for their professions in time for the national scheme's full operation on 1 July 2010 was acknowledged by Ministers, who noted that the registration standards were submitted after the conclusion of wide-ranging consultation on draft proposals.

Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the many individuals and organisations who took the time to lodge submissions with the National Boards during their consultation period. Ministers noted that the Boards carefully considered the feedback received, which led to changes being made to improve the operation and clarity of the proposals.

In approving the registration standards, Ministers noted that the respective National Boards will monitor their application to health practitioners under the national scheme, and be mindful of the need to review the approved registration standards every 3 years or earlier, should that prove necessary in the interests of the provision of professional health services to all Australians.

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council approval of the registration standards for the professions is in accordance with the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*. The decision to approve the registration standards at this stage will assist the National Boards to implement the proposals in the lead-up to the national scheme's commencement. However, the approved registration standards will not come into force until the full commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2010.

In the meantime, the approved registration standards can be accessed on the individual websites of each National Board, or from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) website - at www.ahpra.gov.au

Issued by:

The Hon John Hill
Minister for Health, South Australia
Chair, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council

1 April 2010

Media Enquires: SA Health Media Unit - telephone: 08 8226 6488

ATTACHMENT TO COMMUNIQUÉ

APPROVED NATIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGISTRATION STANDARDS

National Board	Approved registration standards to take effect on 1/07/2010
Chiropractic Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦
Dental Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Area of Practice endorsement (conscious sedation) • Specialist registration
Medical Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Standard for limited registration (area of need) • Standard for limited registration (postgraduate training or supervised practice) • Specialist registration
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Endorsement for nurse practitioners • Endorsement for scheduled medicines (Registered Nurses) for Rural and Isolated Practice
Optometry Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Endorsement for scheduled medicines (optometrists) – topical medicines for the treatment of conditions of the eye
Osteopathy Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦
Pharmacy Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦ (excluding professional indemnity insurance) • Examinations for general registration standard • Supervised practice standard
Physiotherapy Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦
Podiatry Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦ • Specialist registration • Endorsement for scheduled medicines
Psychology Board of Australia	• Mandatory registration standards ♦ • General registration standard • Provisional registration standard • Area of practice endorsement – 7 areas, namely: clinical psychology, counselling psychology, forensic psychology, clinical neuropsychology, organisational psychology, sport and exercise psychology, and educational and developmental psychology

♦ **Note:** ‘Mandatory registration standards’ includes (in all cases), registration standards for:

- Criminal history
- English language
- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Continuing Professional Development
- Recency of Practice