

Update: Victorian registration renewals

1 February 2011

Fast track for health practitioners who need to renew

Deadline

Yesterday, 31 January 2011, was the deadline under the National Law for health practitioners in Victoria – other than medical practitioners – to renew their registration to practise. Individual practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year.

The vast majority of health practitioners renew their registration on time. The number of practitioners in each profession who did not renew in Victoria this year is well within expected numbers, given workforce mobility, flexibility and past experience.

AHPRA CEO, Martin Fletcher, said he was pleased that the number of practitioners whose registration has lapsed compared favourably to previous years. (See table below for details).

Each year, 5 – 10% of practitioners do not to renew their registration for a range of reasons (for example retirement, parental leave, overseas travel or study). New national registration standards designed to protect the public such as Recency of Practice may also have increased the number of practitioners who have opted out of practice.

Some practitioners who intend to practise do not renew on time. Under the National Law, practitioners who have not renewed their registration within one month of the expiry date lose their registration and must reapply. AHPRA and the National Boards have no discretion under the Law to return any practitioner to the Register, unless the practitioner applies to be registered again.

Fast Track Renewals

Any Victorian health practitioner who did not renew their registration by yesterday's deadline and who wishes to practise their profession can apply for registration using AHPRA's [online enquiry form](#) to request a fast track application form. Once the completed application is received, AHPRA processes most applications within 48 hours.

To use the Fast Track, practitioners must:

- Use the online enquiry form to select 'fast track application', and request a fast track application form
- Complete and mail the form to AHPRA and make the relevant declarations about Recency of Practice and Continuing Professional Development
- Complete the Criminal History documentation



Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Nursing and Midwifery
Optometry

Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

In the first year of the National Scheme, the National Boards for each profession have waived any additional fee for fast track applications. The Fast Track process does NOT require:

- Proof of identity
- Proof of qualifications
- Verification of English language proficiency
- Registration or work history documentation

Practitioners who do not have internet access can telephone the AHPRA Enquiry Centre on 1300 419 495.

Registration status check

Health practitioners can check online if their application to renew their registration has been received. Go to www.ahpra.gov.au and 'check online if your renewal has been received' on the right of the screen.

Practitioners who applied to renew their registration before the end of the one month late period are entitled to practise their profession while their application is being processed, even if today's date is after the registration expiry date shown on the register. Any practitioner whose registration has lapsed – who is therefore not able to practise - does not appear on the Register of Practitioners.

Practitioners can check their registration status on the National Register for their profession at www.ahpra.gov.au.

Graduate nurses

AHPRA is processing registration applications for graduate nurses due to begin their graduate programs soon.

To date, AHPRA has registered 2/3 of the Victorian graduates due to begin their programs by the end of March: 2400 graduate nurses, out of an expected 3680 graduates have been registered and the remaining applications are being prioritized by start-date to make sure that every graduate nurse is registered in time to start their program.

AHPRA is confident all graduates will be registered in time to start their program and is working with education providers to ensure this.

AHPRA reminds graduates to submit a complete application, with all the relevant documentation, to make sure their registration application is processed swiftly and in time for them to begin their placement.

Numbers

Each year, up to 10% of practitioners do not renew their registration. Some of these practitioners deliberately opt out of registration, others do not renew on time. In 2011, the following numbers of practitioners in each profession in Victoria did not renew their registration:



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Profession	Total registrants per profession in Victoria	Total who did not renew (eg: opted out, or did not renew on time)	% of total registrants
Nursing and midwifery	84700	3400	4%
Dental	3750	190	5%
Optometry	1000	40	4%
Osteopathy	360	29	8%
Pharmacy	5500	290	5%
Physiotherapy	4900	400	9%
Podiatry	1000	100	10%
Psychology	7300	580	8%

Most Victorian medical practitioners are due to renew their registration in September and do NOT need to take any action on their registration now.