



Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Nursing and Midwifery
Optometry

Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Media release

3 June 2011

Fundamentals sound – AHPRA future focused

The fundamentals of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme are sound and solutions to the issues raised in the [Senate Inquiry Report](#) are in place.

Mr Peter Allen, Chair of the Agency Management Committee of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) welcomed the Senate's scrutiny of the early implementation of the national scheme, was pleased that the Inquiry did not identify any new issues that were not already being addressed by AHPRA. AHPRA noted its recommendations and the conclusions of the minority report from government senators.

"The National Scheme is a world-first regulatory reform of unprecedented scope and ambition. While the transition period was not as smooth as we had hoped, that chapter is now behind us," Mr Allen said.

"I am confident that our action plan comprehensively addresses the areas of concern about early implementation of the National Scheme raised with the Committee by individuals and organisations," he said.

"Our extensive program of work aims to improve services to registrants, support national consistency and continue to bring out the benefits of the National Scheme," Mr Allen said.

AHPRA has listened carefully to all the presentations to the Inquiry and analysed every written submission to identify implementation issues which require action.

"AHPRA acknowledges that many concerns expressed by our stakeholders about the early implementation period were valid. Nonetheless, we are encouraged that most submissions from organisations confirm support for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. We are committed to working closely with our stakeholders to realise the full benefit of the National Scheme for all Australians," Mr Allen said.

An important example of the improvements underway is the registration renewals campaign which AHPRA is currently implementing. This campaign has seen greatly expanded communication with practitioners and close partnership with employers and professional associations to encourage practitioners to 'Renew on time, on line'.

"More than 91% of the 220,000 nurses and midwives due to renew their registration by 31 May have already renewed," AHPRA CEO Mr Martin Fletcher said. "We are working closely with employers and professional associations to make sure that all practitioners who want to continue to practise have renewed on time."

Other recent service improvements introduced include:

- Establishment of customer service teams in each AHPRA State and Territory office with

increased resources, to quickly and effectively respond to practitioner and community questions and queries;

- Improvements to the AHPRA website to make it easier to use, streamlining, simplifying and supporting the basic processes of registration and renewal
- Expanded online services including online graduate applications and capacity for practitioners to track application/renewal status on the web

A major benefit of the National Scheme is that the public, practitioners and employers can check registration details of over 520,000 individual practitioners on the National Register which provides information about areas of specialty/endorsement, registration expiry dates or registration types.

Employers can also use the National Register to confirm an individual's ability to practise in a regulated health profession in Australia. If a practitioner appears on the National Register, he or she may practise in that profession in Australia within the scope of their registration.

[AHPRA's submission to the Inquiry is published online.](#)

For more information

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