



Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Nursing and Midwifery
Optometry

Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Media release

November 2011

First South Australian health practitioner data released

The first ever comprehensive data on health practitioner regulation is now available with the release of AHPRA and National Boards' annual report, including state and territory information.

The release of the 2010-11 annual report gives an essential, first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners across 10 professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). One in 44 Australians is a registered health practitioner.

As well as profiling the professions and practitioners by state and territory, the report provides the first national data on notifications (complaints) involving health practitioners and the actions taken by National Boards to protect public safety.

AHPRA CEO Mr Martin Fletcher said the 2010-11 annual report demonstrated transparent and accountable reporting by AHPRA and the National Boards about their work in regulating the professions and protecting the public.

"The introduction of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010 represents an unparalleled reform of health practitioner regulation. This annual report provides comprehensive data about the first year of operation of the National Scheme, across all areas of operation of AHPRA and the National Boards," Mr Fletcher said.

"There is now clear evidence that the National Scheme is sound, robust and a great asset for the Australian community," he said.

Features of health practitioner regulation in South Australia (SA) during the 2011 reporting year include:

- There were 44,313 practitioners across 10 professions who nominated SA as the principal place of practice in 2010-11, representing 8.3% of Australia's registered health practitioners (Tables 4 and 6)
- There are 529 health practitioners in SA with an endorsement on their registration (eg: 58 nurse practitioners; 7 nurses and midwives and 35 optometrists endorsed for scheduled medicines; 5 eligible midwives; 1 dental practitioner endorsed for conscious sedation; and 419 psychologists with an area of practice endorsement) (Table 9)
- SA has 4,874 specialists – 131 dentists, 4,739 medical practitioners and four podiatric surgeons (Table 12)
- There were 771 notifications received in the AHPRA SA office in 2010-11, which means that 1.5% of SA practitioners were subject to a notification. Consistent with all other states and territories, the largest group of these (308 notifications) related to medical practitioners and 282 to nurses (Tables 13 and 14). Importantly, cases being managed in South Australia by previous regulatory authorities before July 2010 ('legacy' matters) that were not yet referred for serious disciplinary hearing are included in

this total. Elsewhere in Australia, legacy matters are being managed under the previous laws in place in each jurisdiction

- 121 mandatory notifications were received during the year in the AHPRA SA office. This represents a rate of 27.3 mandatory notifications per 10,000 SA practitioners or 28.3% of the national total of mandatory notifications (excluding NSW) (Table 22)

The annual report is an important source of information about the activities of the National Boards in 2010-11 and highlights for AHPRA's state and territory offices. The tables referred to above are published in the annual report.

Analysis of national registration and notifications data in the annual report, including trends and comparisons, is published in the 2011 annual report edition AHPRA Report. It is recommended that state and territory media releases are read in conjunction with this information, to enable informed comparisons to be made.

Mr Fletcher encouraged health practitioners, patients, employers, educators and the Australian community to read the 2010-11 annual report, published at www.ahpra.gov.au under *Legislation and publications > AHPRA publications*.

For more information

- Refer to the AHPRA Annual Report
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
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