



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Practice
Chinese Medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical Radiation Practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Media release

21 February 2012

Registration applications now open for four 2012 professions

Registration applications are now open for practitioners in the four professions joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) in July.

From 1 July 2012, the following professions must be registered with their National Board to practise anywhere in Australia:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner
- Chinese medicine practitioner¹
- Medical radiation practitioner and
- Occupational therapist.

Registration application forms for practitioners in these professions who intend to practise after 1 July are published on each National Board website through www.ahpra.gov.au.

Practitioners who are currently registered with a state or territory board on 30 June 2012 will automatically transfer into the National Scheme and do not have to apply again for registration.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Chief Executive Officer Martin Fletcher urged practitioners working in states and territories where their profession is currently not regulated to submit their application for registration to AHPRA by 30 March 2012 to allow enough time for assessment and registration to occur.

"AHPRA is expecting a large number of applications from practitioners who will not automatically transfer into the National Scheme," Mr Fletcher said.

"It is vital that these practitioners study their profession's registration requirements closely and provide AHPRA with all essential documents to avoid any unnecessary delays in having their application assessed by 1 July 2012."

Practitioners must pay application and registration fees when submitting their application for registration. Fee schedules for the four professions are published on the National Board websites.

¹ Including Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, oriental medicine practitioners and Chinese herbal dispensers

Mr Fletcher said the National Scheme provided for a more robust regulatory environment than was in place previously and new protective mechanisms – including registration standards – will better protect the public.

“The role of the National Boards, supported by AHPRA, is to ensure that registered practitioners have the qualifications, skills and experience to provide safe care to the public and this can require checks by external agencies,” he said.

“National Boards have had to set registration fees knowing that there is no ongoing government funding or subsidies, as existed in some jurisdictions before July 2010.”

To be granted registration, practitioners must meet the registration standards set by their National Boards under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The standards signed off by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 13 January 2012 and published on the National Board websites, cover criminal history, professional indemnity insurance, recency of practice, English language skills and continuing professional development.

A grand-parenting registration standard has also been approved, detailing how the transition to the new standards will apply. A standard has also been approved linking registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner with being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Mr Fletcher urged practitioners to regularly visit their [National Board's website](#) for updates and information.

“AHPRA staff are also ready and willing to help practitioners as they progress towards national registration and can be contacted on 1300 419 495 or by making an online inquiry at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Make an Enquiry](#),” he said.

Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, there is a National Board for each profession, which is supported by AHPRA. The National Boards set the professional standards that each practitioner must meet. AHPRA supports the Boards in their role to protect the public, providing services including registering practitioners and investigating complaints or notifications.

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- Visit the individual Boards' websites for specific registration information and FAQs, accessible via www.ahpra.gov.au
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200