

Community Reference Group Communiqué

The first Community Reference Group meeting was held at the AHPRA National Office in Melbourne on 6 June 2013.

Role of the group

The CRG is an advisory group for AHPRA and the National Boards. While the group is a conduit between communities and AHPRA/National Boards, it is not representative of particular communities. Rather, members of the group represent only themselves and share their opinions as individuals.

The establishment of the Community Reference Group (CRG) is a wonderful opportunity for AHPRA and the National Boards to learn how better to engage with communities, particularly those who are not registered practitioners. The members are committed to helping connect their own networks with the work of the group, AHPRA and the National Boards, as appropriate.

The group will not discuss individual registration or notifications matters and has no decision making powers.

Inaugural meeting

The group was welcomed by Martin Fletcher, Chief Executive of AHPRA; and Colin Waldron, Chair of the Steering Committee for the Community Reference Group and Chair of the Optometry Board of Australia. Martin said he hoped the CRG would work as a 'critical friend' of the National Scheme, thus contributing to its continuous improvement.

The group spent the majority of the meeting learning about the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) and the roles of AHPRA and the National Boards.

The group will be developing its own processes, including finalising its *Terms of reference*, at future meetings.

Work plan

The group will develop a work-plan to guide its focus, and to be better able to measure the impact of work.

While the plan is still being developed, the group's first focus will be on notifications, which is an area of health practitioner regulation that is particularly relevant to the community.

Communication

Communication is an important tool for the group.

Particularly, for transparency, the group agreed to:

- a CRG page being published on the AHPRA website that lists the CRG members and will be used to publish updates from the group
- releasing a communiqué after each meeting, to be published on the website, and
- distributing its minutes to the senior management group at AHPRA and the National Boards for information.

Next meeting

The second meeting of the group will be held in Melbourne on 9 July.

Paul Laris
Chair
Community Reference Group