



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

Agency Management Committee - Decisions and Actions

Meeting number: 2013/07

Meeting date: 23 July 2013

Meeting time: 10.00am – 2:00pm

Meeting venue: AHPRA National Office, Level 7, 111 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Members present

Mr Peter Allen, Chair

Professor Merrilyn Walton

Professor Genevieve Gray

Professor Con Michael

Mr Ian Smith

Mr Michael Gorton

In attendance

Mr Martin Fletcher – Chief Executive Officer

Mr Jim O'Dempsey – Director, Business Improvement and Innovation

Ms Dominique Saunders – General Counsel

Mr John Illott – Director, Finance and Corporate Operations

Mr Chris Robertson – Director, National Board Services and Queensland

Mr Matthew Hardy – Director, Regulatory Operations (item 5.0)

Ms Deena Jones - Executive Assistant to Mr. Martin Fletcher, Minute Secretary

Apologies

Ms Karen Crawshaw

Part One

Item 1 Welcome and general overview

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.00am.

Item 1.1 Disclosure of any conflicts of interest in relation to agenda items

In accordance with Clause 8 of Schedule 2 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), members declared any possible conflict of interest in relation to agenda items for consideration by the Committee.

Ms Walton declared a possible conflict of interest at item 8.1, Legal Update, during discussion about the Statutory Offences Unit. No decision was required in relation to this item.

Item 2 Record of previous minutes

Item 2.1 Record of Decisions and Actions arising from last meeting

Committee members confirmed the Decisions and Actions document from the 11 June 2013 meeting as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Item 2.2 Action Summary

Committee members noted the Action Summary for July 2013.

Item 3 Current Situation

Item 3.1 Update from Chair, CEO and Members

Committee members noted the update provided by Mr Fletcher including:

- Mr Fletcher, Mr Robertson and Dr Flynn appeared before the Health and Community Services Committee of the Queensland Parliament in relation to the Health Ombudsman Bill 2013.
- An update on current government issues including:
 - a recent meeting with the Minister for Health in Western Australia, the Hon. Minister Hames and the upcoming meeting with the Minister for Health, Northern Territory, the Hon. Minister Lambley
 - the Standing Council on Health's forthcoming meeting.
- Recent correspondence from the Friends of Science of Medicine in relation to chiropractic
- Mr Fletcher's appearance before a Senate Inquiry hearing into the practice of sports science in Australia and the attendance of Mr Fletcher and Ms Saunders at the recent meeting of the Australian Integrity of Sport Network meeting held on 10 July.
- Emerging issues, including:
 - an update on the actions taken about fraudulent Certificates of Registration Status (CORS) purporting to have been issued by the Myanmar Medical Council, and
 - from 1 August 2013, AHPRA will start issuing an updated CORS on behalf of the 14 National Boards. The new standardised certificates include a security foil and watermark to reduce the risk of fraudulent reproduction.
- The release of a guide for people raising a concern about a health practitioner.
- AHPRA offices around the country recently celebrated the third anniversary of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Item 4: Performance Reporting and Risk Management

Item 4.1 Operational Update

Committee members noted the update provided by Mr O'Dempsey and:

1. noted the business operation report for the month of June 2013
2. considered the notifications timeframes report which details the timeframe from the date when the matter entered the relevant stage until 30 May 2013 for each profession, and
3. noted that timeframes for Health and Performance assessments will be reported as separate measures in future reporting.

Further advice was sought by Members on the percentage of practitioners who have conditions placed on their registration, whilst undergoing or awaiting health or performance assessment.

The Management Committee noted work will be undertaken to report the percentage of complete applications for registration which are received.

Item 4.2 Improving notifications performance

Members noted the update on actions being implemented to measure and improve notifications performance, including the consistency of processes and the capture of data.

Mr Fletcher updated members on benchmarking discussions underway including those with the General Medical Council and the Health and Care Professions Council (UK).

The Management Committee sought additional advice about:

- how processes for joint consideration with Health Complaints Entities are working in each jurisdiction
- the management and escalation process for review and action in relation to outlier matters
- current processes for active management and review of cases.

Item 4.2.1 Regulatory Philosophy

Members noted the update provided by Mr Fletcher and:

1. Considered the discussion paper on regulatory philosophy.
2. Provided feedback on the draft philosophy, noting the importance of a clear focus on public protection, the need to be careful in the use of language such as 'right touch' and the need to clearly delineate the regulatory process from the regulatory outcome.
3. Provided feedback on the proposed approach for discussion and feedback, noting further work to be done.

Item 4.2.2 Disclosure Policy

Members noted the update provided by Mr Fletcher and the proposals made by the Notifications Taskforce, including the need for public consultation, to be proposed in the context of the 3 year review.

Item 4.2.3 Proposed notifications KPI reporting

Members considered and provided feedback on the proposed format for reporting against the notification Key Performance Indicators. Members highlighted the importance of including a key issues summary and analysis of trends within the data.

The developments in the reporting approach and format were welcomed by the Management Committee.

Item 4.3 Business Improvement Portfolio Report

Members noted the programme report and a summary of current projects provided by Mr O'Dempsey.

Item 4.4 Progress Report on Prior Law Matters

Members noted:

1. 79 prior law cases remain open at 30 June 2013 and that it is estimated that 112 of these cases will be completed by the end of 2013.
2. Heads of Tribunals have agreed to initiate their best efforts to progress prior law matters as quickly as possible.

Item 5 Queensland Briefing

Members:

1. Noted the update provided in the Queensland Notifications Improvement Project June 2013 report.
2. Noted the update on the progress of the Health Ombudsman Queensland Bill 2013.
3. Noted the presentation provided by Mr Robertson and Mr Hardy on the current situation and planned improvements across AHPRA Queensland.

Item 6 Business Items

Item 6.1 National Board Issues

Item 6.1.1 Issues arising, June Board meetings

Members noted the update provided by Mr Robertson.

Item 6.1.2 Consultation Update

Members:

1. noted the July 2013 consultation update
2. noted the final joint response from AHPRA and National Boards to the Queensland Health Practitioner Advanced Scope of Practice Taskforce, subject to any comments from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia.

Item 6.2 2012/13 Annual Report

Members noted the update provided by Mr Fletcher and:

1. noted the timeline and copy plan for the 2013 Annual Report which needs to be submitted to the Ministerial Council by 30 September 2013
2. noted that the proposed publication date is 1 November 2013
3. noted the arrangements to be made with Governments to support the tabling of the Annual Report in each state, territory and Commonwealth Parliament as close as practicable to the publication date.

Item 6.3 NRAS All Boards Combined Meeting 2013

Mr Fletcher provided an overview of the NRAS All Boards Combined Meeting. Members noted the provisional program and draft concurrent session summary.

Item 6.4 Workplace Health and Safety Training

Members noted the training proposed to be conducted Friday 30 August 2013, in conjunction with the Agency Management Committee meeting.

Item 6.5 Outcomes of targeted consultation on international criminal history checks

Members noted:

1. the results of targeted consultation and the issues arising
2. the proposed recommendations to National Boards that:
 - the consultation paper be updated as per the proposals detailed in Attachment (B)
 - the consultation paper be strengthened with information about the process for receiving and using Certificates of Registration Status in deciding applications for registration
 - public consultation be conducted over a shorter period of four weeks
3. the intention to establish a formal procurement process concurrent with the public consultation to source the provider to conduct the international criminal history checks
4. that a short term solution to receiving information about alerts through the Australian Federal Police is being discussed while a preferred solution of providing automated access through CrimTrac is further explored.

Close

There being no further business, the Chair thanked the members for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 2.45pm.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Agency Management Committee will be held on Friday 30 August 2013 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Wharf, Melbourne, to commence at 09:30.