

Community Reference Group Communiqué

The Community Reference Group (CRG) met at the AHPRA National office in Melbourne on Thursday 17 July 2014.

The CRG:

- supported the work that AHPRA has undertaken to update the letters that are sent to people making notifications (complaints) about a health practitioner and the practitioner who is the subject of the notification. Members also noted that a member of the CRG was part of the of the editorial team doing this work
- discussed and provided feedback on AHPRA's response to the recommendations made by the Health Issues Centre of Victoria on ways that AHPRA can improve the notifier's experience. Also noted AHPRA's commitment to providing regular progress reports on its plans and that the CRG's input and feedback will be important
- members agreed that they would welcome a change to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) which would allow a community board member to become Chair (which is currently not possible under the Health Practitioner Regulation national Law, as in force in each state and territory)
- were provided an update from Mr Martin Fletcher, Chief Executive Officer of AHPRA, on:
 - AHPRA's recent restructure
 - the fourth birthday of the National Scheme
 - the progress of the independent three year review of the National Scheme which being undertaken on behalf of Health Ministers. Martin also thanked the CRG for its contribution and feedback, which was included as an appendix to the AHPRA preliminary submission
 - the changes to the health complaints process in Queensland, including the Office of the Health Ombudsman and its responsibilities
 - the implementation of the AHPRA and National Boards' Regulatory principles, which will be released for public consultation later in the year, and
- were provided an update from the AHPRA Statutory Offences Unit on its work and noted that the overwhelming majority of breaches of the Boards' *Advertising guidelines* are resolved quickly after practitioners are informed of the breach by letter.

CRG membership

Ms Becky Hirst resigned from the CRG in July. The CRG thanks Ms Becky Hirst for her contribution to the CRG. In coming months, AHPRA will publish information about filling the vacancy this leaves on the CRG.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the CRG will be held at the AHPRA offices in Melbourne on Thursday 21 October.

Paul Laris

Chair

Community Reference Group