

Community Reference Group Communiqué

The Community Reference Group (CRG) met via teleconference on Monday 24 November 2014.

Co-regulatory jurisdictions

Members noted that they would like to hear more about how AHPRA's relationship with co-regulatory jurisdictions and other regulatory agencies (such as the Office of the Health Ombudsman) is being managed, including information on the matters that they pass on to AHPRA.

Exposure draft Paramedics Registration Bill 2014 (Victoria)

Members noted the Victorian government proposal to establish a scheme to regulate Victorian paramedics. Members were supportive of common training standards, establishing a scope of practice for all Australian paramedics and a national record of any allegations or actions against a paramedic. They also acknowledged that the high level of risk inherent to their role was an overarching factor for inclusion in the scheme.

Editorial panel

Members provided advice on establishing a consumer panel to provide feedback to AHPRA on its communications. Members noted opportunities for the panel to increase the use of plain language and include individuals from non-English speaking backgrounds.

CRG member terms and new appointments

Members responded to directions from the CRG steering committee, and were in favour of terms being extended, allowing continuity alongside new appointments, and requested that the secretariat look towards organising succession planning and induction materials for new members.

International criminal history checks

Members noted the new approach to international criminal history checks being implemented in 2015.

Statutory Offences Unit

Members provided feedback on a draft complaints form from the Statutory Offences Unit.

Open consultations

Members noted open consultations and commented that with regard to the consultation, *Medical Board of Australia - Public consultation on draft Guidelines – Supervised practice for international medical graduates*, accreditation of medical practices where international medical graduates were under supervision should be considered. They also supported the strengthening of supervision guidelines.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the CRG will be held at the AHPRA National office in March 2015.

Paul Laris
Chair
Community Reference Group