



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

Communiqué – Prescribing Working Group

May 2015

Working group to focus on consistency in the development and review of regulatory policy for the prescribing of medicines

The Prescribing Working Group (PWG) formed by the Chairs of National Boards in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) held their second meeting via teleconference on 7 May 2015.

The Prescribing Working Group (PWG) will review and advise on the governance structures and processes to support the development and review of regulatory policy that enables the prescribing of medicines by registered health practitioners. It is expected that this will provide a consistent, transparent and rigorous approach to the development and review of regulatory policy for prescribing, in order to ensure the objectives of the National Scheme are met.

The PWG consists of representatives from the National Boards, the Health Professions Accreditation Councils' Forum, NPS MedicineWise, Health Workforce Principal Committee, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC), State and Territory health departments, consumers and health professionals.

The PWG heard of a number of projects being undertaken by ACSQHC related to the safe use of medicines.

The PWG received an update on a project funded through the Office of Learning and Teaching titled *Enabling competence in prescribing medicines across multiple healthcare disciplines through systematic assessment practices*. This project aims to develop and evaluate a consensus driven, evidence-based assessment toolkit for the assessment of student prescribing competence in 10 healthcare disciplines, according to accepted national standards. Queensland University of Technology is the lead institute in partnership with University of Sydney, University of Western Australia and James Cook University.

The toolkit will assist the higher education sector, accrediting and registering bodies to assess the prescribing competence of students in the healthcare disciplines studied.

The project is being led by Professor Lisa Nissen (Head), School of Clinical Sciences Medical Radiation Sciences, Paramedic Science, Pharmacy and Podiatry at Queensland University of Technology a member of the PWG.

There will be extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders including National Boards, Accreditation Authorities and education providers as the work progresses.

The PWG will continue its work at its next meeting in August.

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 FAQ, 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