



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

November 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 fourth meeting via teleconference on 5 November 2015.

The Prescribing Working Group (PWG) has been developed to review and advise on the governance structures and processes to support a consistent approach to regulatory policy that enables the prescribing of medicines by registered health practitioners. It is expected that this consistency and increased transparency will provide assurance for National Boards and stakeholders that health practitioners prescribing scheduled medicines under an endorsement will have the required level of competence and understand the expected standards of practice to support safe practice.

The PWG consists of representatives from the National Boards, the Health Professions Accreditation Councils' Forum, NPS MedicineWise, State and Territory health departments, consumers and health professionals.

Members were provided with an update on the work of the Health Workforce Principal Committee Nationally Consistent Scheduled Medicines Authorities Working Group. This working group includes representatives of National Board and AHPRA and is developing Ministerial guidance for National Boards developing and reviewing policy related to scheduled medicines endorsement. The guidance is currently in draft form with feedback being sought from specific stakeholders.

Together the work of the HPWC working group and the PWG will provide a clear governance framework to support safe prescribing practice by health practitioners with an endorsement for scheduled medicines.

The PWG will continue its work at its next meeting in early 2016.

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