



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
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Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Communiqué – Prescribing Working Group

March 2016

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 Forum of NRAS Chairs in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) held their fifth meeting via teleconference on 3 March 2016.

Background to the PWG and past communiqués are available on the AHPRA [website](#).

The work of PWG members continues to support a consistent approach to a number of aspects related to endorsement for scheduled medicines.

This includes the Office of Learning and Teaching project on *Enabling competence in prescribing medicine across multiple healthcare disciplines through systematic assessment practices*. This work being lead out of Queensland University of Technology (QUT) will support a consistent approach to assessment. The NPS MedicineWise Prescribing Competencies Framework is at the core of this project. Stakeholder engagement will continue to underpin this project leading up to a National Symposium in October 2016 to ensure critical stakeholder feedback is captured.

The Health Professions Accreditation Councils' Forum continues to progress work in the development of consistent accreditation standards for endorsement for scheduled medicines. The NPS competencies framework is integral to this area of work too.

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 Boards and AHPRA and is developing Ministerial guidance for National Boards developing and reviewing policy related to scheduled medicines endorsement (the draft guidance).

A suite of references and templates will support the implementation of the guidance, if approved, for National Boards and AHPRA to draw on. It is anticipated that when finalised, this information will be publicly available so that those wishing to bring forward an initiative to a National Board will understand the breadth and depth of the information that is required as well as the anticipated time needed to draw all of this together.

The draft guidance requires AHPRA and National Board to establish an expert committee to advise National Boards on the use of scheduled medicines generally, and on matters relevant to a specific proposal of a National Board. Terms of reference for this expert committee are being finalised and once approved AHPRA will undertake an Expression of interest (EOI) process to appoint members to this committee.

The work of the PWG will progress at its next meeting in June 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)
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