

Community Reference Group Communiqué

The Community Reference Group (CRG) met at the AHPRA National office in Melbourne on Thursday 5 November 2015.

Interim Chair

- Members noted that member John Stubbs had been selected as Interim Chair by the CRG Steering Committee until a permanent Chair appointment was made

Public, practitioner and employer awareness campaigns

- Members noted that awareness campaigns were underway for practitioners and employers about their obligations under the National Scheme and suggested:
 - that jurisdictional obligations (for example, on mandatory reporting) should be clarified, and
 - that AHPRA should engage with larger employers to alert them to the resources available to help them meet their obligations under the National Law.

Improving the notifier experience

- Members suggested making support material more accessible to consumers, for example:
 - making fact sheets available as an audio file, and
 - making the notifications form accessible to screen readers.

NRAS review

- Members noted work undertaken between AHPRA and health complaints entities to improve the assessment of notifications (complaints) and noted that this was an opportunity for the notifier to decide how they wanted their complaint addressed.

Bacchus Marsh and Melton Hospital, Victoria

- Members noted:
 - work underway, including an independent review of the notifications procedures in Victoria, to review improvements that have been implemented to reduce timeframes for investigating notifications and any other actions which might be needed.
 - that a deeper understanding by health practitioners and employers of obligations with regard to mandatory reporting was needed.

CRG attendance at Dental Board of Australia Infection Prevention and Control forum

- Members noted that the public can play a role in improving infection control by making their expectations clear and by increasing public reporting of compliance.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the CRG will be held at the AHPRA National office in March 2016.

John Stubbs

Interim Chair*
Community Reference Group

*Mark Bodycoat was selected as the new Chair of the Community Reference Group by the Community Reference Group Steering Committee at their meeting on 18 December 2015.