



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

Community Reference Group Communiqué

The Community Reference Group (CRG) met at the AHPRA National office in Melbourne on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

Senate Inquiry on complaints mechanisms under the National Law

The CRG discussed their response to the Senate Inquiry and finalised their response out of session.

Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into the performance of functions by the Health Ombudsman (OHO)

Members were provided with an overview of co-regulation in Queensland and the current Parliamentary Inquiry into the performance of functions by the Health Ombudsman (OHO). Members asked to be updated on the results of the parliamentary inquiry.

National code of conduct for unregistered health practitioners

Members provided feedback on promoting understanding of the National code of conduct for unregistered health practitioners and filed a response to promotional materials out of session.

AHPRA update

AHPRA CEO, Martin Fletcher, supported the involvement of the CRG and the community perspective in both:

- the consultation to the upcoming amendments to the National Law, and
- the Senate inquiry, [Complaints mechanism administered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law](#)

Martin announced that AHPRA will be co-hosting the biennial international [Council for Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation \(CLEAR\)](#) Forum in November 2017 in Melbourne.

CRG Chair, Mark Bodycoat, provided an update to members from a recent presentation made to the Forum of National Board Chairs, and noted that all Boards had a strong interest in engaging with the CRG in their upcoming work

Regulatory operations

Members provided comment to the National Engagement Advisor on proposed notifier 'experience principles' to guide the work of AHPRA staff and were updated on the online notifications portal, which went live in January 2017.

Governance review and amendments to the National Law

Members were provided with an update on the review of the governance within the National Scheme and proposed amendments to the National Law, following the report of the independent review of the National Scheme..

Advertising resources

Members provided feedback on:

- what education could be undertaken to help practitioners comply
- how consumers find information about advertising, and
- what messaging consumers need about advertising.

Reference group participation

Members reported on their participation on reference groups for the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia – Consultation on Codes of conduct for nurses and midwives.

Members provided feedback on the consultation documents and agreed to finalise the CRG response out of session.

Next meeting

- The next meeting of the CRG will be held at the AHPRA National office in May 2017.

Mark Bodycoat

Chair
Community Reference Group