



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

Agency Management Committee Communiqué

February 2018

The 94th meeting of the [Agency Management Committee](#) was held on Tuesday 20 February 2018 in Melbourne. This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the meeting.

Chair and members' report

Members noted the update provided by the Chair Mr Michael Gorton AM, including:

- Mr Gorton and Mr Fletcher are attending the meeting of the Podiatry Board of Australia on 21 February 2018.

Regulatory Performance Committee

Members noted the unconfirmed Minutes from the Regulatory Performance Committee held 8 February 2018.

Members noted the update regarding notifications performance and the two emerging issues in relation to registration timeframes.

Members approved the proposed amendment to the Charter of the Regulatory Performance Committee.

Members approved the 2016-17 annual report of the Performance Committee for distribution to National Boards, followed by publication on the AHPRA website.

Members further noted the update from Dr Peggy Brown, Chair of the Regulatory Performance Committee including:

- an increase in the rate of new notifications of around 8%, with a 5% increase in the notifications completion rate. There has been 9.7% growth in the number of open notifications.
- following a successful trial, the triage model for managing all medical assessments and the case conferencing of notifications is being rolled out nationally.
- a strategy has been put in place to address the issues associated with an increase in tribunal matters as a result of the increased notifications closure rate.
- the management response on the delays in finalising medical practitioner registration applications and the pressures on the annual graduate registration campaign.
- the quality review on Drug and Alcohol Screening for Health Assessments was presented
- the performance report on Medicare and National Pathology Services was presented
- the draft paper regarding counselling as a notification outcome and the planned pilot with the Psychology Board of Australia.

Forum of NRAS Chairs

Members noted the Forum of NRAS Chairs Communiqué.

Members noted the update provided by Dr Joanna Flynn including:

- Dr Flynn thanked Associate Professor Susan Young for attending the meeting as an observer.
- The Forum received presentations from Ms Richelle McCausland, Acting National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner and Ms Kym Ayscough and Ms Sarndrah Horsfall on the Regulatory Operating Model and Digital House

- Dr Flynn advised members that the Forum felt there needed to be a clearer process to agree projects and available resources, linked to the Health Profession Agreement process.

The next Remuneration Committee meeting will be held in May 2018.

CEO Report

Members noted the CEO report and the verbal update from Mr Fletcher, including:

- Mr Fletcher attended for part of the AHMAC meeting on Friday 9 February. AHMAC welcomed our designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre.
- Tranche 1 amendments to the National Law will commence on 1 March, except in Western Australia. Advice will be circulated on an upcoming webinar to explain the changes.
- The plan to implement the recommendation of the Chaperone Review to link tribunal decisions to the national register, commencing with medicine.

Discussion also occurred about the status of any discussions with the NDIS in relation to their proposed quality and safeguarding arrangements for providers who are registered health practitioners.

Business items

In other business items, the Committee:

- Approved the revised terms of reference for the Accreditation Advisory Committee and agreed to establish the Committee.
- Members noted the proposed approach to the review of accreditation arrangements to be completed by mid 2018 and the goal of supporting National Boards to make assignment decisions based on the best available information and available comparative performance data.
- Dr Joanna Flynn confirmed that the Medical Board of Australia is satisfied with the progress of the Doctors Health Service initiative. A formal evaluation is planned as part of the next triennium of funding. Members authorised the CEO to enter into an extension of the funding agreement with the AMA for Doctors Health Services (on behalf of the MBA)
- Members noted a presentation on the work of the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner. Ms Richelle McCausland, Acting National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner provided an overview of the work of her office and trends in the complaints.
- Members noted and provided feedback on the presentation by Ms Kym Ayscough on developments in Regulatory Operations.
- Members noted and welcomed AHPRA's designation as a Collaborating Centre of the World Health Organisation and the proposed approach to the establishment of the Centre.

Next meeting of the Agency Management Committee

- 20 March 2018, AHPRA National Office, Melbourne