



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander health practice
Chinese medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical radiation practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Paramedicine
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Q13.
Guidelines for mandatory notifications: public consultation

National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are seeking feedback about the revised *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*.

Please ensure you have read the [public consultation papers](#) before providing feedback as the questions are specific to the revised guidelines.

Q23.
Privacy

Your response will be anonymous unless you choose to provide your name and/or the name of your organisation.

Privacy notice

This consultation is being conducted by AHPRA and is hosted on a third-party website, provided by Qualtrics. The information collected will be used by AHPRA to evaluate the revised guidelines. The information will be handled in accordance with the privacy policies of AHPRA accessible [here](#) and Qualtrics [here](#).

Contact.
Contact details

We may contact you about your response.

Please write your name and contact details.

(Skip if you wish to be anonymous)

Q25.

Publication of responses

National Boards and AHPRA publish responses at their discretion. We generally publish responses on our websites to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders.

We will not publish responses that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the consultation. Before publication, we may remove personally-identifying information, including contact details.

We can accept responses made in confidence. These responses will not be published. Responses may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential response will be determined in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth), which has provisions to protect personal information and information given in confidence.

You must let us know if you do **not** want us to publish your responses.

Published responses will include the names (if provided) of the individuals and/or the organisations that made the response.

Q24. Publication of responses

Please select the box below if you do **not** want your response to be published.

Please do **not** publish my response

Q15. About your response

Q23. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

No

Q24. Which of the following best describes your organisation?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q22. Please write the name of your organisation.

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q17.

Which of the following best describes you?

- I am a health practitioner
- I am a member of the community
- I am an employer (of health practitioners)
- I am a student
- Other

Q19.

Which of the following health profession/s are you registered in, in Australia?

You may select more than one answer

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q35.

Before you answer questions about the guidelines

Please ensure you have read the [public consultation papers](#) before providing feedback as the questions are specific to the revised guidelines for mandatory notifications.

The following questions will help us to gather feedback about the revised guidelines.

Q9.

How easy is it to find specific information in the revised guidelines?

Q10.

How relevant is the content of the revised guidelines?

Q12.

Please describe any content that needs to be changed or deleted in the revised guidelines.

Q14.

Should some of the content be moved out of the revised guidelines to be published on the website instead?

- Yes
- No

Q40.

If yes, please describe what should be moved and your reasons why.

Q22.

How helpful is the structure of the revised guidelines?

Q24. Do the revised guidelines clearly explain when a mandatory notification is required and when it is not?

- Yes
- No

Q31. Please explain your answer.

Q32. Are the flow charts and diagrams helpful?

- Yes
- No

Q15.

Please explain your answer.

Q33. Are the risk factor consideration charts helpful?

Yes

No

Q34.

Please explain your answer.

Q29.

Are the examples in the revised guidelines helpful?

Yes

No

Q36.

Please explain your answer.

Q16. Should there be separate guidelines for mandatory notifications about students or should the information be included in guidelines about practitioners and students (but as a separate section)?

Separate **guidelines** about students

Separate **section** about students

Q39.

Please explain your answer.

Q30.

The revised guidelines explain that it is not an offence to fail to make a mandatory notification when required, but a National Board may take disciplinary action in this situation.

Is this made clear in the revised guidelines?

Yes

No

Q37.

Please explain your answer.

Q27.

Is there anything that needs to be added to the revised guidelines?

There should be more emphasis on the consequences of making a vexatious or malicious notification. There seems to be more emphasis on the consequences of not making a notification though.

Q17. It is proposed that the guidelines will be reviewed every five years, or earlier if required.

Is this reasonable?

Yes

No

Q38.

Please explain your answer.

Probably earlier, maybe every 2-3 years, as according to the statistics, the number of notifications is increasing.

Q24.

Please describe anything else the National Boards should consider in the review of the guidelines.

My husband is a health practitioner, and what seems to be a malicious and vexatious notification has been made about him. We have two young children (including an infant) who require a lot of care. The stress of this complaint (among the other things, him constantly thinking how such a malicious complaint under current law can be made), has affected me and my family life too, and I feel the way the family of practitioners (including children) are affected by a notification, particularly a malicious or vexatious one, has not been considered and kept in mind. The purpose of mandatory notification has been to protect the public from the risk of harm; my children and I are also members of public, but we have not been protected and have instead suffered.

Q31.

Please add any other comments or suggestions for the revised guidelines.

Q27.

Thank you!

Thank you for participating in the consultation.

Your answers will be used by the National Boards and AHPRA to improve the *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*.