

Professions Reference Group communiqué

The Professions Reference Group (PRG) met via video conference on Wednesday 15 June 2022. The meeting was chaired by Nello Marino from the Australian Podiatry Association.

The PRG discussed the following:

- Registration are currently undergoing a late period for renewals for nurses and midwives and members were advised that both the option of payment by B-pay and hard copy forms have now been removed and replaced by online processes. We continue to engage with all jurisdictions around workforce challenges to ensure the path to registration is easy for all health professionals.
- The progress of the legislative amendments to the National Law which are currently before Queensland parliament. The amendments were referred to the Queensland Health and Environment Committee with a short window for public submissions ending 8 June. Ahpra and other professional associations have indicated strong support for the anti-racism clause to be enshrined in the National Law amendments and it is very pleasing to see the focus on cultural safety. Public transcripts are available of the session on the Queensland Parliament website.
- Further attention has been given to the Cosmetic surgery review following more media coverage in recent times. Members noted that during the public consultation process, the reviewer heard from almost 800 stakeholders, receiving more than 550 responses to the consumer survey, and over 230 submissions from health practitioners and other stakeholders. Submissions have now closed. The reviewer has established two advisory groups to further inform the review:
 - Technical Advisory Group, with membership including clinicians from a range of specialities and areas of practice
 - Consumer Reference and Advisory Group, comprising of consumer organisations, such as Consumers Health Forum, as well as representatives with expertise in marketing and psychosocial aspects of cosmetic surgery.
- The final review and Ahpra's response to recommendations is on track to be published in September 2022.
- Members were provided with information on the Transformation Program, noting the vision is to make it easier for people to do their work and interact with us for more efficient, effective, and humane regulation. There will be one place to apply for registration and it will now be easier for applicants to submit complete and compliant applications and get the support they need and for Ahpra to assess. For those wishing to raise a concern with Ahpra, the Transformation Program will ensure we have the right support and information to help notifiers and make it easier for people to work with us and for staff to do their work.
- Fee setting and budgeting in the National Scheme was the focus of this meeting and members noted that Ahpra costs are fully allocated to each National Board. Ahpra has updated its cost allocation model to provide a more detailed attribution of all Ahpra costs by major regulatory functions: Registration, Notifications and Compliance. The benefits of the change include: greater visibility at regulatory function level, the model accommodates different growth rates by profession by function, process change can be modelled and benefits realised and better informed fee strategies and spotlight resource intensive activities. The new model will be implemented from 1 July 2022.

Nello Marino

Chair

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