Information for health practitioners: Consultation on a draft Data strategy





We hold, publish and share data about all registered health practitioners in Australia, including through the public register.

Sharing some of this data, where legally allowed and while protecting privacy and confidentiality, can help protect the public, improve access to health services and contribute to patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

New data technologies can help us make our regulatory work more efficient and effective.

We want your input on how we use and share the data we hold about you.

What are we consulting on?

We're seeking general feedback on the draft Data strategy as well as feedback on three focus areas: the public register, data sharing and advanced analytics.

List of practitioners

We want the <u>public register</u> (the list of all registered health practitioners in Australia) to continue to be a trusted source of information about health practitioners that helps the public make informed choices about their healthcare.

We want to know what you think about including additional information about you and your practice on the public register.

We're also seeking your views on publishing practitioners' disciplinary history on the public register. We do not currently publish conditions or limitations on a practitioner's ability to practise once they are no longer in place. This information is likely to be of interest to the public when making decisions about their healthcare.

We understand that some practitioners may be concerned that publishing disciplinary history will unfairly affect a practitioner's reputation and practice. We want to fully understand your views on this so our approach is fair, transparent and proportionate.

Data sharing

The National Law¹ enables us to share data with certain organisations to protect the public, including Medicare. We take our privacy and confidentiality obligations very seriously.² Other than the information on the public register, we will not share identifiable information about you unless we have a legal reason to do so (e.g. a court subpoena).

We're interested in sharing data with and receiving data from other organisations (where this is legally allowed) to benefit practitioners and the public.

For example, improving linkages between student and practitioner data could help streamline the transition from study to employment and enable registration applications to be prepopulated.

Further, we could share more detailed insights about risks in healthcare (identified in the data we hold) to help you continue to practise safely.

We want to hear from you about how we can share, or receive, data to benefit registered health practitioners and the public.

Advanced analytics

Advanced analytics and machine learning technologies could help make our regulatory work more efficient and effective, benefitting practitioners and the public.

For example, new data technologies can improve our notifications process by helping us identify risk factors, triage higher risk matters and resolve notifications more quickly. These efficiencies can help us streamline practitioners' interactions with us and support practitioners' wellbeing.

We will only use advanced analytics within a robust legal and ethical framework, and with transparent information available about the approach. Complex regulatory decisions that affect practitioners will continue to be made by humans, supported by data.

We want to hear your views about how Ahpra should approach using advanced analytics and machine learning technologies.

- 1 Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory
- 2 Ahpra's Privacy Policy

Have your say on our draft Data strategy by 31 January 2023

To learn more about our draft Data strategy, please read our consultation paper.

To share your views on any or all aspects of the draft Data strategy, please answer our consultation questions by using the <u>online form</u> or by emailing your submission to <u>AhpraConsultation@ahpra.gov.au</u>.