

Q1.

Consultation on a draft Data strategy

Thank you for taking time to respond to the consultation.

Introduction

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) is inviting feedback on a draft [Data strategy](#). The Data strategy will guide how we use the data that we collect and hold.

We are inviting responses to specific questions about the future use of this data and general comments on the draft Data strategy.

In addition to the Data strategy, we are consulting on the future directions for three key focus areas:

- the public register of health practitioners
- data sharing, and
- advanced analytics.

Please read the [public consultation paper](#) (including the draft Data strategy) before responding.

Q1.

Publication of responses

We publish submissions at our discretion. We generally publish submissions on our website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders about consultation responses. Please let us know if you do not want your submission published.

We will not place on our website, or make available to the public, submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the subject of the consultation. Before publication, we may remove personally identifying information from submissions, including contact details.

We can accept submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. A request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth), which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence. Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your submission or if you want us to treat all or part of it as confidential.

Published submissions will include the names of the individuals and/or the organisations that made the submission unless confidentiality is expressly requested.

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

Please do **not** publish my responses

Q3.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Ahpra's Strategy and Policy Directorate by emailing AhpraConsultation@ahpra.gov.au.

Q39.

Acknowledgement of Country

Ahpra acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.

Q4.

Please click on the arrow below to start your submission.

Q5.

About your responses

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

No

Q6.

Please provide the name of the organisation.

Australian Physiotherapy Council

Q7.

Which of the following best describes your organisation?

Health services provider

Professional indemnity insurer

Legal services provider

Professional body (e.g. College or Association)

Education provider

Regulator

Government

Ombudsman

Other - please describe below

accreditation and assessment
authority

Q8.

Which of the following best describes you?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q9.
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.

Q10.
Your contact details

Name:

Q11. Email address:

Q12.
Draft Data strategy

The draft Data strategy can be found on page 7 of the [consultation paper](#).

Does the draft Data strategy cover the right issues?

Q13.
Do you think that anything should be added or removed from the draft Data strategy?

Q14.
Focus area 1: The public register

Do you agree with adding more information to the public register?

- Yes
- No

Q15.

Focus area 1: The public register

What additional information do you think should be included on the public register?

The Australian Physiotherapy Council supports Ahpra's Draft Data strategy, including the domains and objectives articulated on page 7 of the consultation paper. Due to the Council's organisational purpose being 'ensuring tomorrow's physiotherapy workforce' our response to Ahpra's Data Strategy has focused primarily on Focus Area 2: Data sharing and Focus Area 3: Advanced Analytics, rather than Focus Area 1: The Public Register. Our key functions of accreditation and assessment relate to pre-registration practitioners, and as such our response has not concentrated on data related matters from registration onwards. Within the consultation paper, there are suggestions regarding the 'proposed future direction for the public register' including information that registered practitioners have completed cultural safety training. Since January 2020, the Australian Physiotherapy Council requires all overseas qualified practitioners applying for assessment for registration to complete our online Cultural Safety Training program. The Council would support the addition of this data to the public register, as it aligns with Ahpra's direction to encourage all physiotherapists to be culturally safe practitioners.

Q16.

Please share your reasons

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q17.

Focus area 1: The public register

Do you agree with adding health practitioners' disciplinary history to the public register?

Yes

No

Q18.

Focus area 1: The public register

How much detail (about a health practitioner's disciplinary history) should be included on the public register?

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q19.

Please share your reasons

This question was not displayed to the respondent.

Q20.

Focus area 1: The public register

How long should a health practitioner's disciplinary history be published on the public register?

0 to 1 year

1 to 4 years

5 to 10 years

10 to 20 years

- As long as the practitioner is registered as a health practitioner
- Disciplinary history should not be published on the public register. Only current conditions or limits on practise should be published on the public register.
- Other, please describe

Q22.

Focus area 1: The public register

Who should be able to add additional information to the public register?

No comment from the Council at this time

Q23.

Focus area 1: The public register

Are there other ways to enhance the effectiveness and value of the public register for the public and/or practitioners?

Within the consultation paper, there are suggestions regarding the 'proposed future direction for the public register' including information that registered practitioners have completed cultural safety training. Since January 2020, the Australian Physiotherapy Council requires all overseas qualified practitioners applying for assessment for registration to complete our online Cultural Safety Training program. The Council would support the addition of this data to the public register, as it aligns with Ahpra's direction to encourage all physiotherapists to be culturally safe practitioners.

Q24.

Focus area 2: Data sharing

The [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law](#) enables us to share data with some other organisations in certain situations.

Do you have suggestions about how Ahpra could share data with and/or receive data from other organisations to benefit the public, practitioners and/or our regulatory work?

As the accreditation and assessment authority for physiotherapy in Australia, the Australian Physiotherapy Council collects data regarding its two key functions: • accredited tertiary entry-level physiotherapy programs, and • overseas qualified physiotherapists seeking registration in Australia (known as 'candidates' during their assessment journey). In the best interests of Ahpra, the Council and its stakeholders, we are open to exploring how appropriate data sharing could occur, complying with proper consent of those who have submitted their data and privacy obligations. When considering the overseas qualified practitioner journey encompassing assessment and registration, there could be a number of efficiency gains and opportunities to improve the practitioner experience. Examples include: • central system for overseas practitioners to submit key documents concerning their overseas qualifications and eligibility, that can be used for both assessment and registration purposes. The Council would request further discussion and collaboration on sharing data with Ahpra such as: • Aggregate practitioner/registrant destination data – this would enable the Council to ensure assessments and cases in written and clinical assessment reflect the likely workplaces that overseas practitioners will practice in.

Q25.

Focus area 3: Advanced analytics

Do you have any suggestions about how Ahpra should approach using advanced analytics and machine learning technologies?

The Australian Physiotherapy Council is interested to collaborate with Ahpra leveraging advanced analytics and machine learning technologies as it relates to supporting the Australian physiotherapy workforce. We believe there are positive opportunities to gain insights and understanding into currently registered physiotherapists and undertake analysis and modelling of future workforce needs, with a focus on supplying the Australian healthcare sector with adequate numbers of competent, safe and work-ready physiotherapy practitioners.

Q26.

Other

Please describe anything else Ahpra should consider in developing the Data strategy.

No comment from the Council at this time