

Community Advisory Council communiqué

September 2022

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) met virtually on Tuesday 6 September. This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the meeting.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the lands where members were located and paid their respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Three new members (Patricia Jenkins, Liat Watson and Nosayaba Omokaro) were welcomed to the meeting and all members introduced themselves.

CEO update

Members noted the CEO report highlighting:

- The Independent review of the regulation of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery was provided to Ahpra and the medical Board of Australia in mid-August 2022. The recommendations were in four key areas: training and qualifications, management of notifications, advertising regulation and influencing practice. It is anticipated that a joint Ahpra and MBA response will be published in early September 2022.
- Moong-moong-gak cultural safety program and that the program has now been delivered in all Ahpra locations across the country. Over the past 18-months 1,615 scheme participants have enrolled in the program, with 1,147 people having completed the program in full (online and workshop components). A second round of workshops are to be held nationally between 9 August and 28 September 2022.

Other business

Other matters that were considered by the Council included:

- an update from Dr Lynne Coulson Barr on the work of the Queensland Health Ombudsman and with Heather Edwards, Queensland State Manager the co-regulatory environment and the successful implementation of joint consideration in December 2022 in that jurisdiction
- an update of the revision of the National Scheme Engagement Strategy
- an overview of the updated National Board Code of Conduct for board and committee members, reinforcing our values, the standards of behaviour expected and contributing to a positive working environment through being informed, being active, showing respect and acting ethically and the new process to manage the resolution of concerns if they occur
- an update from Notifications focusing on strengthening professional practice underpinned by the philosophy that most practitioners want to do the right thing and can either self-regulate or regulate with assistance, supporting or facilitating professional practice to keep practitioners working and expanding the regulatory toolkit
- an update on current experience and engagement at Ahpra, the notifier support service, access project and expert advisory group and practitioners at risk of harm when part of a notification process
- an overview from the CAC subcommittee held on the 21 July that considered the Preliminary consultation – Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives, NMBA guidance document for consumers on the education, scope of practice and capabilities of nurses and midwives, Ahpra website redesign and new CAC briefing notes that Ahpra and National Boards are asked to use when submitting papers for Council consideration
- provision of feedback on the OptomBA preliminary consultation - Review of endorsement for scheduled medicines registration standard

- summary of updates from a range of meetings attended by Council representatives including the Accreditation Committee and Accreditation Liaison Group, Forum of NRAS Chairs, Research Evaluation Committee, Medical Training Survey, Notifier Support Service Steering Committee, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group

A Community Advisory Council sub-committee is planned for 12 October 2022 if required.

The next meeting of the Community Advisory Council is confirmed for 6 December 2022, face to face.

Patricia Hall

Chair
Community Advisory Council