

Quick guide to the review of the Criminal history registration standard

Who we are.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) works in partnership with 15 National Boards to ensure the community has access to a safe health workforce across the 16 health professions regulated under the [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme \(the National Scheme\)](#).

Public protection is our number one priority.

What we do.

One of our core functions is to develop standards, codes, and guidelines for the regulated health professions. These documents help protect the public by setting standards for registered health practitioners. More information about what we do is on the [Ahpra website](#).

Why we consult.

Your feedback helps us get important information from different groups, including the public and registered health practitioners, about the work we do, and helps us to understand people's views, concerns and expectations.

What is this review about?

The Criminal history registration standard is an important part of the things used to make sure registered health practitioners are safe to practise. Being safe to practise means not only that a person has the right training and skills but also that they are a suitable person to be a health practitioner. We know the public trusts health practitioners and having a criminal history may mean someone is not a suitable person to trust as a health practitioner.

This consultation is about criminal behaviour and criminal offending. This may be upsetting for some people.

Information about [support services](#) is available on the Ahpra website.

If you are worried that a health practitioner may be putting public safety at risk you can contact us about this [concern](#).

In late 2023, as part of work to improve public safety, we asked questions about the current version of the Criminal history registration standard. You can read more about the 2023 questions and the feedback we received [on our website](#). We considered all the feedback, and we are now suggesting changes to the Criminal history registration standard based on this feedback. We have also written some new material to help explain how the Criminal history registration standard works.

We want to hear what you think about the changes we suggest and the new material.

What changes do we suggest are made to the criminal history standard?

The main changes are:

- Making it clearer what type of criminal history might mean a person should not be a registered practitioner.
- More information about what the Criminal history registration standard is for
- More information about what gets considered when decisions are made about someone's criminal history.
- A new consideration to make the Criminal history registration standard fairer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Where can you find more information about the changes suggested and the other material that has been drafted?

Appendix A at **page 11** in our [consultation paper](#) is a table that shows the changes suggested to the Criminal history registration standard and explains why we have suggested those changes.

The proposed version of the Criminal history registration standard is at **Appendix B** on **page 21** of the [consultation paper](#).

Appendix C at **page 25** of the [consultation paper](#) is the new material we have drafted to help explain how the Criminal history registration standard works.

How you can give us feedback.

We have some specific questions on **page 10** of the consultation paper, but you can also just provide general comments.

You can use our [online form](#) to give your feedback.

Or you can give us your feedback using the [submissions template](#) (Word document) and emailing it to us at AhpraConsultation@ahpra.gov.au

The questions in the online form and submissions template are the same.

If you need more time to give us your feedback, you can email us at AhpraConsultation@ahpra.gov.au or phone us on **1300 419 495**.

Will we publish your feedback?

We publish the feedback we receive because we want people to see the feedback we receive. We publish your name and the feedback you provide, but we do not publish your contact details or other information that may identify people.

You can ask us not to publish your feedback or to take your name off the feedback you give us.

We will not publish submissions that have offensive comments or are about things we are not consulting on.

What happens next?

We will consider all feedback when we draft the final version of the Criminal history registration standard. The revised Criminal history registration standard must be approved by Health Ministers before it takes effect.