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Media release

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

27 November 2012

AHPRA launches Australia-first searchable course database

For the first time Australians now have immediate access to a comprehensive, easily searchable national list of approved programs of study for health practitioners. This is accessible through the AHPRA website www.ahpra.gov.au/Education/Approved-Programs-of-Study

Practitioners, the public and education providers can now conduct an immediate, online search of approved programs of study, through a new database launched by AHPRA and the National Boards.

Launching the service, the CEO of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Martin Fletcher, said the new capability was another tangible example of the benefits of the National Scheme to all Australians.

'This new service provides a single point of entry to important information that was previously scattered between states and territories. It is only possible through the National Scheme, because we now hold national data about accredited courses for health practitioners,' he said.

The searchable list replaces previously published static lists for each profession and will make it easier and quicker to find important information about approved programs of study for the following professions:

- chiropractic
- dental
- medical
- nursing and midwifery
- optometry

- osteopathy
- pharmacy
- physiotherapy, and
- podiatry.

Searchable lists for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, medical radiation practice, occupational therapy and psychology professions will be available in the future. The approved and equivalent programs of study for these professions will continue to be available on the individual National Board accreditation pages on their websites.

The list, a product of the partnership between AHPRA and the National Boards:

- provides for the first time detailed information about individual programs of study such as course length, approval dates and conditions
- allows education providers to check, in real time, any changes or updates to the approved programs
 of study that they are required to report on for student registration and
- allows potential students to search for courses to ensure that they will lead to registration with one of the National Boards.

Information on course content, such as course structure and subject outlines, can be sourced directly from the relevant education provider.

The searchable list includes identified Inactive Programs of Study. These are programs that are no longer approved by a National Board but which still entitle graduates to apply for registration for a period of five years from the date the course was no longer approved.

National Boards meet monthly to make decisions about programs of study. These decisions are added to the searchable lists and will be publicly available as they occur.

For more information

- The searchable national list of approved programs of study for health practitioners is • accessible through the AHPRA website - <u>www.ahpra.gov.au</u> For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200
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- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers) •