

Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Assessment – Registration standard and guidelines related to cosmetic surgery

22 February 2023

Assessment purpose

The National Boards' Patient and Consumer Health and Safety Impact Assessment¹ explains the potential impact of a proposed registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of the public, vulnerable members of the community and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The four key components considered in the Assessment are:

1. The potential impact of the registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
2. The potential impact of the registration standard, code or guideline on the health and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples including approaches to mitigate any potential negative or unintended effects
3. Engagement with patients and consumers particularly vulnerable members of the community about the proposal
4. Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about the proposal.

The National Boards' Health and Safety Impact Assessment aligns with the *National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Health and Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#), [National Scheme engagement strategy 2020-2025](#), [National-Scheme-Strategy 2020-2025](#)* and reflect key aspects of the revised consultation process in the [AManC Procedures for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines and accreditation standards](#).

¹ This assessment has been developed by Ahpra and the National Boards in accordance with section 25(c) and 35(c) of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). Section 25(c) requires Ahpra to establish procedures for ensuring that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) operates in accordance with good regulatory practice. Section 35(c) assigns the National Boards functions to develop or approve standards, codes and guidelines for the health profession including the development of registration standards for approval by the Ministerial Council and that provide guidance to health practitioners registered in the profession. Section 40 of the National Law requires National Boards to ensure that there is wide-ranging consultation during the development of a registration standard, code, or guideline.

Below is our assessment of the impact of *Registration standard: Endorsement of registration for cosmetic surgery for registered medical practitioners, the Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery and non-surgical cosmetic procedures and Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who advertise cosmetic surgery*, on the health and safety of patients and consumers, particularly vulnerable members of the community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

1. How will the registration standard and guidelines impact on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community? What are the actions that have been taken to address or prevent this?

It is considered that the Medical Board's registration standard and guidelines will have a positive impact on patient and consumer health and safety, particularly vulnerable members of the community. The standards and guidelines have been carefully considered based on the recommendations of the *Independent review of the regulation of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery*, best available evidence, best practice approaches and monitoring the impact of the Board's current Cosmetic Guidelines.

In line with our **consultation processes**, the Medical Board undertook wide-ranging consultation using tailored approaches with peak community and consumer groups. Our engagement through consultation with vulnerable members of the community has assisted us to meet our responsibilities to protect patient safety and health care quality.

The Medical Board has carefully considered consultation feedback to identify any unintended impacts (including potential negative impacts) for the registration standard and guidelines. We have fully considered and taken actions to address any potential negative impacts for patients and consumers. We will continue to engage with peak community and consumer groups, patient and consumers in order to get input and views from vulnerable members of the community.

Submissions will be published on the Medical Board's [Past consultations page](#).

2. How will this proposal impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples? What are the actions that have been taken to address or prevent this?

The Medical Board is committed to the National Scheme's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#) which focuses on achieving patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the norm, and the inextricably linked elements of clinical and [cultural safety](#). As part of the consultation process, we have undertaken wide-ranging consultation and tried to find the best way to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in a meaningful way. We will continue to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and stakeholders in order to continue to get their input and views.

The Medical Board has carefully considered any potential impact of the standard and guidelines on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and how the impact compared to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples might be different and believe the standard and guidelines will have a positive impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples health and safety. Our engagement through consultation has further informed the standard and guidelines to help us to meet our responsibilities to protect patient safety and health care quality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Continuing to engage with relevant organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples will help us to identify any other future impacts.

3. How will the impact of the registration standard and the guidelines be actively monitored and evaluated?

Part of the Medical Board's work in keeping the public safe is ensuring that all Medical Board standards, codes and guidelines are regularly reviewed.

In keeping with this the Medical Board will regularly review the registration standard and the guidelines to check that they are working as intended.