



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Practice
Chinese Medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical Radiation Practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Communiqué – Prescribing Working Group

June 2016

Working group focusing on consistency in the development and review of regulatory policy for the prescribing of medicines

The Prescribing Working Group (PWG) formed by the Forum of NRAS Chairs in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) held its sixth and final meeting via teleconference on 16 June 2016.

Background to the PWG, including Terms of Reference and past communiqués, is available on the AHPRA website.

This was the last meeting of the PWG as members agreed that it had developed the work that it was established to do.

The work of the PWG will be published on the AHPRA website in due course when formal notification is received that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council has endorsed the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council's (AHMAC) proposed *Guidance for National Boards: Applications to the Ministerial Council for approval of endorsements in relation to scheduled medicines under section 14 of the National Law* (the AHMAC Guidance).

At this last meeting, the PWG considered an implementation guide to support National Boards (and its stakeholders) understand what is required when submitting a proposal to Ministers for a registration standard for endorsement for scheduled medicines. The guide describes key stages in both developing the concept and the submission, ministerial approval process, implementation, and monitoring. Different entities have different responsibilities at key stages. Key considerations, suggested activities, points of engagement, and anticipated outcomes are described for each stage.

The proposed AHMAC guidance requires AHPRA and National Boards to establish an expert committee to advise National Boards on the use of scheduled medicines generally, and on matters relevant to a specific proposal of a National Board. Terms of reference for this expert committee are being finalised and once approved AHPRA will undertake an Expression of interest (EOI) process to appoint members to this committee.

The PWG also received updates on:

- the Office of Learning and Teaching project on *Enabling competence in prescribing medicine across multiple healthcare disciplines through systematic assessment practices* including the planned national symposium for 31 October 2016, and
- the Health Professions Accreditation Councils' Forum's progress in the development of consistent accreditation standards for prescribing education and training. It is anticipated that they will be consulting with stakeholders, including affected professions, in coming months.

NPS MedicineWise also advised the PWG that the NPS MedicineWise Prescribing Competencies are due for review as they are now five years old. NPS MedicineWise will undertake this review in accordance with the organisation's work plan.

The PWG will be reconvened as required to consider future work in line with its terms of reference.

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form

- Visit the individual Boards' websites for specific registration information and FAQ, accessible via www.ahpra.gov.au
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200