

Media release

November 2011

First New South Wales health practitioner registration data released

The first ever comprehensive data on health practitioner regulation is now available with the release of AHPRA and National Boards' annual report, including state and territory information.

The release of the 2010-11 annual report gives an essential, first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners across 10 professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). One in 44 Australians is a registered health practitioner.

As well as profiling the professions and practitioners by state and territory, the report provides the first national data on notifications (complaints) involving health practitioners and the actions taken by National Boards to protect public safety.

The report includes New South Wales data about the registration of health practitioners. It includes only some information about notifications in NSW, as this is a co-regulatory jurisdiction. Notifications in NSW are handled by the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) and the New South Wales health professional councils, supported by the Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA). The HPCA provided AHPRA with overview data on notifications to enable AHPRA to present a high-level, Australia-wide picture of 2010-11 notifications. Information about notifications in New South Wales will be published by the HPCA and the HCCC.

AHPRA CEO Mr Martin Fletcher said the 2010-11 annual report demonstrated transparent and accountable reporting by AHPRA and the National Boards about their work in regulating the professions and protecting the public.

"The introduction of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010 represents an unparalleled reform of health practitioner regulation. This annual report provides comprehensive data about the first year of operation of the National Scheme, across all areas of operation of AHPRA and the National Boards," Mr Fletcher said.

"There is now clear evidence that the National Scheme is sound, robust and a great asset for the Australian community," he said.

Features of health practitioner registration in New South Wales (NSW) during the 2011 reporting year include:

- NSW is the state with most registered practitioners, with 156,104 health practitioners across 10 professions nominating NSW as their principal place of practice in 2010-11. This represents 29.5% of Australia's registered health practitioners (Tables 4 and 6)
- There are 2,394 health practitioners in NSW with an endorsement on their registration, including 169 nurse practitioners and 13 eligible midwives (Table 9)

- NSW has 18,314 specialists – 476 dentists, 17,835 medical practitioners and three podiatric surgeons (Table 12)

The annual report is an important source of information about the activities of the National Boards in 2010-11 and highlights for AHPRA's state and territory offices. The Tables referred to above are published in the annual report.

Analysis of national registration and notifications data in the annual report, including trends and comparisons, is published in the 2011 annual report edition AHPRA Report. It is recommended that state and territory media releases are read in conjunction with this information, to enable informed comparisons to be made. Each table including notifications data specifies whether or not NSW data is included, so for a NSW specific interpretation data table footnotes should be read with care.

Mr Fletcher encouraged health practitioners, patients, employers, educators and the Australian community to read the 2010-11 annual report, published at www.ahpra.gov.au under *Legislation and publications > AHPRA publications*.

For more information

- Refer to the AHPRA Annual Report
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
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