

Agency Management Committee Communiqué

June 2020

The 121th meeting of the [Agency Management Committee](#) (AManC) was held on Tuesday, 16 June 2020 via videoconference. This Communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the meeting.

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the lands on which the meeting was being held and paid respect to their Elders, past and present.

Business items

The committee welcomed the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner, Ms Richelle McCausland, who provided an overview of trends and emerging issues over the past year. There was a discussion about common themes emerging from matters dealt with by the Commissioner and actions taken by Ahpra. Members look forward to a further meeting with Ms McCausland following the production of her office's annual report later this year.

The CEO presented on Covid-19—the road to recovery, highlighting work underway to support the gradual reopening of Ahpra offices nationally, aligned with public health guidance in each state and territory. Work health and safety will be a continued area of focus for ongoing work from home arrangements.

There was a discussion about international regulatory responses to COVID -19, led by Ms Kym Ayscough as President of the Council for Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation. Common themes and challenges associated with the response of professional regulators internationally were highlighted – including surge workforce, national mobility, scope of practice, telehealth and flexibility of regulatory requirements. Committee members observed that Australia has been well placed to respond to these challenges with our national, multi-professional regulatory scheme that regulates title rather than scope.

In other business items, the Committee provided feedback on, and approved:

- The *National Scheme Strategy 2020-2025* and the *National Engagement Strategy*
- Revised *Procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines* and *Procedures for the development of accreditation standards*

The Committee also discussed other priority business items, with members providing feedback on:

- a review of the *Regulatory Principles for the National Scheme*, noting the plan for public consultation later in the year
- the development of the next health professions agreements for 2020-25.

The Committee decided to allocate time at the July meeting to consider preliminary feedback on the pilot of cultural safety training.

The Committee warmly congratulated Ms Jenny Taing OAM for receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Queens Birthday Honours.

Next meeting of the Agency Management Committee

21 July 2020