

## Professions Reference Group communiqué

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The Professions Reference Group (PRG) met via video conference on Wednesday 27 July 2022. The meeting was chaired by Nello Marino from the Australian Podiatry Association.

### **The PRG discussed the following:**

#### **Regulatory Operations - verbal update**

There are no delays in registration (domestic and international) despite the significant pressure on registration due to the increase in internationally qualified practitioners making applications.

The new look public register has had several new improvements including the introduction of predictive language search function allowing users to use predictive text, rather than the static drop down menu, to select a preferred language, radial location search improvements allowing post code look ups and a fix for the obstruction of health practitioners search field on mobile browsers.

#### **Chief Executive - verbal update**

The cosmetic surgery review is expected to be published in fully in September. Ahpra's response to recommendations and non-confidential submissions will also be published. There are several key areas which will be included in the review including minimum training requirements, how we quantify and assess risk in advertising and the role of social media. We are expecting there to be further media reports in the near future.

Ahpra is continuing a dialogue with jurisdictions in multiple forums on a number of short- and long-term issues health workforce. There is a commitment from all levels of government to internationally qualified medical graduates and seeking clarification of any remaining barriers.

Following the recent Medical culture symposium, Ahpra and the Medical Board of Australia have released by a joint statement on the importance of respectful behaviour on the culture of medicine. Online conduct of practitioners was also raised as a matter of importance in the joint statement. The same standards apply online and in person. It is about disagreeing respectfully.

There have been some recent website changes to make multi-profession professional practice resources easier to find. A new webpage was launched 28 June and provides direct access to multiprofessional policy resources for practitioners and the public as well as referencing National Board websites. The landing page clearly shows which resources are relevant to each group and other important resources that may be of interest to both, including podcasts and tribunal/court decisions.

#### **Website redesign project**

The Ahpra website redesign project team along with an associated steering committee are looking to improve the look and feel of the Ahpra and National Board websites. The goal is an improvement to the homepage layout and second level topic pages to go live in October through December 2022 in the areas of:

- a prioritised layout with hierarchy of key information
- improved capability for feature promotion and new content types (possibly images, video, podcast and social media content)
- design look and feel

Members noted the opportunity for members of the Professions Reference Group (or their registered practitioner/professional nominees) to participate and provide feedback on the proposed changes.

Sessions may take the form of face-to-face conversations individually, within a group workshop or via remote online survey.

### **National Law amendments**

On Friday 1 July, the Queensland Health and Environment Committee (the Committee) presented their report on their examination of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill) to the Queensland Parliament. In summary, the Committee recommended

- that the bill be passed without alteration, and
- that the provisions regarding testimonials to not commence until the completion of the independent cosmetic surgery review and that the guidelines and educational material has been published.

### **Nello Marino**

#### **Chair**

Professions Reference Group