

## Public consultation on proposed professional capabilities for paramedics

December 2019

Responses to consultation questions

Please provide your confidential feedback as a Word document by email to [paramedicineconsultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:paramedicineconsultation@ahpra.gov.au) by midday on 13 March 2020.

### Stakeholder Details

*If you wish to include background information about your organisation please provide this as a separate Word document (not PDF).*

<b>Organisation name</b>
Queensland Ambulance Service
<b>Contact information</b> <i>(please include contact person's name and email address)</i>
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## Proposed professional capabilities for paramedics

Please provide your responses to any or all questions in the blank boxes to the right of the question

1. Does any content need to be added to any of the document?

Please note the following suggestions for inclusion into the document:

1. **Page 2** – Suggest inclusion of statement defining roles and responsibilities in terms of applying these Standards (e.g. are they assessed, and if so, by whom, when etc?).
2. **Page 3** - The word 'practice' is often spelt with a 's', (i.e. refer to page 3)
3. **Page 3** – Suggest inclusion of 'State systems of healthcare' to dot point 6 (*demonstrate knowledge Australia's healthcare system*).
4. **Page 5, Point 2** - Collaborate with other health practitioners, consider adding a statement relating to practitioners advocating for the patient's condition/needs.
5. **Page 6, Point 3** - Practise situational awareness to changes in risks or hazards. Re-assess plan to mitigate these risks.
6. **Page 9** - Consider adding 'demonstrated understanding of the legal and ethical boundaries in accessing Patient Information Management Systems' as a third dot point to Domain 1.

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<p>2. Does any content need to be amended or removed from any of the document?</p>	<p>Please note the following suggested amendments to the document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. <b>Page 3 - Relevant aspects of the Australian health care system</b> – consider making reference to ‘knowledge of alternative pathways for patient access’.</li><li>8. <b>Page 4</b> – Under Domain 1, Point 2, Suggest inclusion of a point regarding the primacy of patient care.</li><li>9. <b>Page 6</b> – ‘<i>Draw on appropriate knowledge and skills in order to make professional judgements</i>’ – consider adding the word ‘experience’ to this statement.</li><li>10. <b>Page 6</b> – Suggest heightened prioritisation of the final dot point, ‘<i>prioritise the care provided to optimise safety and health outcomes for the patient and demonstrate a logical and systematic approach to problem solving</i>’.</li><li>11. <b>Page 7</b> – ‘<i>Protect and enhance patient safety</i>’ – consider adding the word ‘gaining informed consent’ to the first dot point statement.</li><li>12. <b>Page 9</b> – ‘<i>Assess and monitor the patient capacity to receive care</i>’ – consider adding to dot point 4, in accordance with ‘approved paramedic skill level’.</li></ol>
<p>3. Is there important content in these capabilities that is better placed in clinical practice guidelines or in ethical and professional guidelines, and vice versa?</p>	<p>13. <b>No</b> – it is suggested that the content is currently appropriately placed within the document.</p>
<p>4. Is the content on cultural safety clear and helpful? Why or why not?</p>	<p>14. <b>Yes</b> – it is suggested that the content on cultural safety is clear and helpful. It is noted that this content allows for clear direction regarding the understanding of the influence of socio-cultural factors on patient user attitudes and behaviour, and will enable practitioners to appropriately identify and respect appropriate boundaries between patients and health professionals.</p>

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<p>5. Is the language clear and appropriate? Are there any potential unintended consequences of the current wording?</p>	<p>15. <b>Page 1</b> - In the introduction, third paragraph states: ...'The professional capabilities for registered paramedics apply to all paramedics and to individuals seeking to qualify for registration'. Suggest further clarification as to whether this application is intended for Australia or worldwide?</p> <p>16. <b>Page 7</b> - Query in relation to the statement noting ".....must use at least three recognised patient identifiers". Specific query as to this statement in the context of unknown patients.</p> <p>17. <b>Page 9</b> - Suggest additional comments as follows under Domain 5: 1. "Use patient information management systems appropriately":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Understanding of the importance of the need for accurate and timely patient documentation; and understanding of how the patient record forms part of the patient 'health care record'</i></li> <li>• <i>Understand the legal requirements as practitioners that pertain to completing and maintaining these health records</i></li> <li>• <i>Paramedics to understand and take responsibility for the accuracy and completion of all patient records and provide accurate details in all interactions with patients</i></li> <li>• <i>Be aware of and take responsibility for the security of all clinical documentation in relation to patient confidentiality; and adhere to all current guidelines and regulations when accessing or using any system or process that accesses or displays patient details and that such use is either for the benefit of the patient or in line with the roles and responsibility that the practitioner is currently undertaking.</i></li> </ul>
<p>6. Are there jurisdiction-specific impacts for practitioners, or governments or other stakeholders that the Board should be aware of if these professional capabilities are adopted?</p>	<p>18. <b>No</b> – it is suggested that there are no jurisdiction-specific impacts for practitioners, or governments or other stakeholders that the Board should be aware of if these professional capabilities are adopted?</p>
<p>7. Are there implementation issues the Board should be aware of?</p>	<p>19. <b>No</b> – it is suggested that there are no implementation issues the Board should be aware of.</p>

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8. Do you have any other feedback or comments on this consultation paper, process or the proposed draft proposed professional capabilities?

20. Broadly and structurally, the document may benefit from further explanation of the bold sections under 'Evidence of this capability for the paramedicine profession' – i.e. are the bold sections read in isolation, or in the broader context of the dot points within each domain?