



International Criminal History Checks

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The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is the national association of the dietetic profession with over 4800 members, and branches in each state and territory. DAA is a leader in nutrition and advocates for better food, better health, and wellbeing for all. The DAA appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) on options for refining international criminal history checks used by AHPRA in assessing applications for regulation for the 14 professions regulated under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory.

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The DAA is interested as a self regulated profession in the provisions of AHPRA and the National Boards, and in the options discussed for refining international criminal checks.

1. DAA does not currently require criminal history checks either as a declaration or by evidence of a criminal history clearance. However, this matter is on the workplan for consideration by the Dietetic Credentialing Council of the DAA in the future.
2. DAA supports the objectives of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme detailed in Section 4 of the National Law, and considers that both registered and self regulated health professions should implement measures to achieve these objectives, particularly with respect to public safety.
3. The consultation paper outlines the complexity of the issues, and it is likely that many of these issues would be relevant to DAA if the association was to implement a system of criminal history checks. While applications to work in Australia come from many countries, successful candidates of the Dietetic Skills Recognition process managed by DAA for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations are more likely to come from the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, United States of America, Republic of Ireland, or South Africa.

4. The cost of administration of a system of criminal history checks is of primary importance for self regulated professions, as is the ability to process applications in a timely fashion. Consequently, DAA would be likely to support Option 1 if it were to implement a system although we will watch with interest the responses to AHPRA and the decisions which National boards decide to take.