AHPRA and the National Boards - Q2

Performance Report: Complaints management quarterly performance data

Reporting period: 1 October 2016 to 31 December 2016



Aboriginal and Torres Stro Islander health practice Chinese medicine

Dental Medical

Medical radiation practice Nursing and Midwifery Occupational therap

Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Postatry

ustralian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

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Registration management

No data about AHPRA's management of registration matters has been provided in this report. AHPRA does not believe that the Health Ombudsman has jurisdiction in relation to AHPRA's performance in the management of the registration functions under the National Law.

AHPRA has published detailed information about registration management on its website and can be found at http://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/What-We-Do/Statistics.aspx.

Notifications management

Notifications overview

The tables below show the number of notifications received about registered health practitioners, the number of notifications completed and the number of notifications that remain open in the assessment, investigation, health assessment and performance assessment stage.

Table 4.1 Number of notifications received during the reporting period, by stream

Stream	Total
Health	75
Performance	414
Conduct	141
Total	630

Table 4.2 Number of notifications closed during the reporting period, by stream

Stream	Total
Health	72
Performance	262
Conduct	116
Total ¹	450

Table 4.3 Number of notifications open at the end of the reporting period, by stream

Stream	December
Health	169
Performance	978
Conduct	379
Total	1,526

Immediate actions overview

Under the National Law, a National Board may take immediate action in relation to a registered health practitioner registered by the Board if the National Board reasonably believes that because of the registered health practitioner's conduct, performance or health, the practitioner poses a serious risk to persons and it is necessary to take immediate action to protect public health or safety. The Board may also take immediate action if the registered health practitioner's registration was improperly obtained because the practitioner or someone else gave the National Board information or a document that was false or misleading in a material particular or if the registered health practitioner's registration has been cancelled or suspended under the law of a jurisdiction, whether in Australia or elsewhere, that is not a participating jurisdiction.

Under the National Law, a National Board may take immediate action in relation to a student registered by the Board if the National Board reasonably believes that the student poses a serious risk to persons because the student has been charged with an offence, or has been convicted or found guilty of an offence, that is punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more; or has, or may have, an impairment; or has, or may have, contravened a condition of the student's registration or an undertaking given by the student to a National Board; and it is necessary to take immediate action to protect public health or safety. The Board may also take immediate action if the student's registration has been cancelled or suspended under the law of a jurisdiction, whether in Australia or elsewhere, that is not a participating jurisdiction.

The tables below show the number of immediate actions commenced during the period, the number of immediate actions completed during the reporting period and the number of immediate actions open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 5.1 Number of immediate actions commenced

	Total
Immediate actions commenced	29

Table 5.2 Number of immediate actions completed

	Total
Immediate actions completed	24

Table 5.3 Number of immediate actions open at end

	December
Immediate actions open	12

Outcomes and timeliness of completed immediate actions

The tables below show the outcomes of immediate actions completed during the reporting period and timeliness of immediate actions completed during the reporting period. The tables below also show the timeliness of immediate actions open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 6.1 Number of immediate actions completed, by outcome

Outcome	Total
Immediate action not proposed	
Immediate action not taken following show cause	3
Immediate action taken	21
Total	24

Table 6.2 Number of immediate actions completed, by stream, by stage

Stream	Assessment	Investigation	Health assessment	Performance assessment	Total
Health	9	1	1		11
Performance	4	4		2	10
Conduct	3				3
Total	16	5	1	2	24

Table 6.3 Immediate actions completed where immediate action was taken, by outcome

Outcome	Total
Accept undertaking	
Impose conditions	13
Suspend registration	8
Accept surrender of registration	
Total	21

Table 6.4 Number of immediate actions completed where immediate action was taken, by stream by stage

Stream	Assessment	Investigation	Health assessment	Performance assessment	Total
Health	8		1		9
Performance	3	4		2	9
Conduct	3				3
Total	14	4	1	2	21

Table 6.5 Number of immediate actions completed where immediate action was taken, by time frame

Time frame	Total
Completed in ≤ 14 days	15
Completed in > 14 days	6
Total	21

Table 6.6 Average number of days for immediate actions completed where immediate actions was taken, from receipt of notification until immediate action was taken

Stream	n	Assessment	Investigation	Health assessment	Performance assessment	Average
Health						
	From receipt of notification	45		150		56
Performance						
	From receipt of notification	85	341		394	267
Conduct						
	From receipt of notification	103				103

Note: From receipt of Notification

The time is taken from the date the notification is received by AHPRA, excluding any time with which the OHO had carriage of the matter, until the decision to take immediate action under section 156 of the Nation Law.

It should be noted that AHPRA continually assesses the need to propose immediate action to the relevant Board as information is received during the management of a matter. The average number of days as detailed above do not reflect this ongoing activity.

Timeliness of open immediate actions

Table 7.1 Number of immediate actions open at the end of the reporting period, by time frame

Time frame	December
Open for ≤ 14 days	1
Open for > 14 days	11
Total	12

Section 150 preliminary assessment overview

Under s150 of the National Law, a National Board must, within 60 days after receipt of a matter, conduct a preliminary assessment of the notification and decide whether or not it relates to a person who is a health practitioner or a student registered by the Board, and whether or not it relates to a matter that is a ground for notification.

The tables below show the number of s150 preliminary assessments commenced and completed during the reporting period and the number of s150 preliminary assessments open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 8.1 Number of s150 preliminary assessments commenced

	Total
s150 preliminary assessments commenced	569

Table 8.2 Number of s150 preliminary assessments completed

	Total
s150 preliminary assessments completed	617

Table 8.3 Number of s150 preliminary assessments open at end

	December
s150 preliminary assessments open	34

Outcomes of completed s150 preliminary assessments

The table below shows the outcome of each preliminary assessment conducted.

Table 9.1 Number of s150 preliminary assessments completed, by outcome

Outcome	Total	
Outcome of decision to take the enquiry further		
Progressed to notification	605	
Managed as offence		
Managed as complaint by co-regulator		
Outcome of decision to close the enquiry		
Insufficient particulars	2	
HCE to retain	1	
No further action		
General information enquiry	7	
Refer all of the notification to another body	2	
Other		
Total	617	

Table 9.2 Number of s150 preliminary assessments completed, by timeframe

Time frame	Total
Completed in ≤ 30 days	509
Completed in > 30 days but ≤ 60 days	72
Completed in > 60 days	36
Total	617

Assessment overview

After completing a preliminary assessment of a matter, Boards have the power to take no further action, investigate the matter further, refer the matter for health assessment, refer the matter for performance assessment, refer the matter for hearing by a panel or the responsible tribunal, or to take a form of action under Division 10 of Part 8 of the National Law, it must undertake a show cause process. This applies when the Board proposes to restrict a practitioner's registration in some way as an interim step to keep the public safe. In these cases, the final assessment decision will not occur until the show cause process has concluded.

After a Board decision to take no further action after an assessment or to take action under Division 10 of Part 8, some matters may remain open to enable administrative processes to be completed.

The tables below show the number of assessments commenced and completed during the reporting period and the number of assessments open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 10.1 Number of assessments commenced

	Total
Assessments commenced	622

Table 10.2 Number of assessments completed

	Total
Assessments completed	444

Table 10.3 Number of assessments open at the end of the reporting period

	December
Assessments open	631

Outcomes and timeliness of completed assessments

The tables below show the outcomes of the assessments completed during the reporting period. The tables below also show the timeliness of conducting the assessments during the reporting period, including any administrative or show cause steps required to complete the assessment.

Table 11.1 Number of assessments completed, by outcome

Outcome	Total	
Outcome of decision to take the notification further		
Investigation	128	
Health or performance assessment	19	
Panel hearing	5	
Tribunal hearing		
Other stage		
Outcome of decision to close the notification		
Accept undertaking	9	
Caution	54	
HCE to retain		
Impose conditions	21	
No further action	206	
Other	2	
Total	444	

Table 11.2 Number of assessments completed, by time frame

Time frame	Total
Completed in ≤ 60 days	118
Completed in > 60 days but ≤ 90 days	149
Completed in > 90 days	177
Total	444

Timeliness of open assessments

The tables below show the number of assessments that remain open at the end of the reporting period and the length of time that they have been in the assessment stage.

Table 12.1 Number of assessments open at the end of the reporting period, by time frame

Time frame	December
Open for ≤ 60 days	419
Open for > 60 days but ≤ 90 days	103
Open for > 90 days	109
Total	631

Table 12.2 Number of assessments open at the end of the reporting period that have been open ≤ 60 days, by stage

Stage	December
Pending Board decision	381
Post Board decision	38
Subject to Division 10 process	
Total	419

Table 12.3 Number of assessments open at the end of the reporting period that have been open > 60 days but ≤ 90 days, by stage

Stage	December
Pending Board decision	61
Post Board decision	27
Subject to Division 10 process	15
Total	103

Table 12.4 Number of assessments open at the end of the reporting period that have been open > 90 days, by stage

Stage	December
Pending Board decision	40
Post Board decision	22
Subject to Division 10 process	47
Total	109

Investigations overview

The tables below show the number of investigations commenced and completed during the reporting period and the number of investigations that remain open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 13.1 Number of investigations commenced

	Total
Investigations commenced	132

Table 13.2 Number of investigations completed

	Total
Investigations completed	80

Table 13.3 Number of investigations open at the end of the reporting period

	December
Investigations open	730

Outcomes and timeliness of completed investigations

The tables below show the outcomes of investigations completed during the reporting period. The tables below also show the timeliness of these completed investigations.

Table 14.1 Number of investigations completed, by outcome

Outcome	Total
Outcome of decision to take the notification further	
Health or performance assessment	3
Panel hearing	3
Tribunal hearing	1
Other stage	
Outcome of decision to close the notification	
Accept undertaking	4
Caution	1
Impose conditions	9
No further action	54
Refer all of the notification to another body	5
Total	80

Table 14.2 Number of investigations completed, by time frame

Time frame	Total
Completed in ≤ 6 months	12
Completed in > 6 months but ≤ 12 months	31
Completed in > 12 months but ≤ 18 months	21
Completed in > 18 months	16
Total	80

Timeliness of open investigations

The table below shows the number of investigations that remain open at the end of the reporting period and the length of time that they have been in the investigation stage.

Table 15.1 Number of investigations open at the end of the reporting period, by time frame

Time frame	December
Open for ≤ 6 months	290
Open for > 6 months but ≤ 12 months	288
Open for > 12 months but ≤ 18 months	105
Open for > 18 months	47
Total	730

Health assessment overview

A health assessment is an assessment of a person to determine whether the person has an impairment and includes a medical, physical, psychiatric or psychological examination or test of the person.

The tables below show the number of health assessments commenced and completed during the reporting period and the number of health assessments open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 16.1 Number of health assessments commenced

	Total
Health assessments commenced	20

Table 16.2 Number of health assessments completed

	Total
Health assessments completed	55

Table 16.3 Number of health assessments open at the end of the reporting period

	December
Health assessments open	64

Outcomes and timeliness of completed health assessments

The tables below show the outcomes of the health assessments completed during the reporting period and the timeliness of these health assessments.

The tables below also show the timeliness of open health assessments at the end of the reporting period.

Table 17.1 Number of health assessments completed, by outcome

Outcome	Total
Outcome of decision to take the notification further	
Investigation	
Panel hearing	1
Tribunal hearing	
Other stage	
Outcome of decision to close the notification	
Accept undertaking	9
Caution	1
Impose conditions	28
No further action	15
Practitioner surrender	1
Other	
Total	55

Table 17.2 Number of health assessments completed, by time frame

Time frame	Total
Completed in ≤ 6 months	22
Completed in > 6 months	33
Total	55

Timeliness of open health assessments

Table 18.1 Number of health assessments open at the end of the reporting period, by time frame

Time frame	December
Open for ≤ 6 months	35
Open for > 6 months	29
Total	64

Performance assessment overview

A performance assessment is an assessment of the knowledge, skill or judgement possessed, or care exercised by a registered health practitioner in the practice of the health profession in which the practitioner is registered.

The tables below show the number of performance assessments commenced and completed during the reporting period and the number of performance assessments open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 19.1 Number of performance assessments commenced

	Total
Performance assessments commenced	2

Table 19.2 Number of performance assessments completed

	Total
Performance assessments completed	1

Table 19.3 Number of performance assessments open at the end of the reporting period

	December
Performance assessments open	13

Outcomes and timeliness of completed performance assessments

The tables below show the outcomes of the performance assessments completed during the reporting period and the timeliness of these performance assessments.

The tables below also show the timeliness of open performance assessments at the end of the reporting period.

Table 20.1 Number of performance assessments completed, by outcome

Outcome	Total
Outcome of decision to take the notification further	
Investigation	
Panel hearing	
Tribunal hearing	
Other stage	
Outcome of decision to close the notification	
Accept undertaking	
Caution	
Impose conditions	
No further action	1
Practitioner surrender	
Total	1

Table 20.2 Number of performance assessments completed, by time frame

Time frame	Total
Completed in ≤ 6 months	
Completed in > 6 months	1
Total	1

Timeliness of open performance assessments

Table 21.1 Number of performance assessments open at end, by time frame

Time frame	December
Open for ≤ 6 months	7
Open for > 6 months	6
Total	13

Legal services management

Panel hearing overview

A National Board may establish a performance and professional standards panel if the Board reasonably believes, because of a notification or for any other reason, that the way a registered health practitioner practises the health profession is, or may be, unsatisfactory or the registered health practitioner's professional conduct is, or may be, unsatisfactory and the Board decides it is necessary or appropriate for the matter to be referred to a panel.

A National Board may establish a health panel if the Board reasonably believes, because of a notification or for any other reason, that a registered health practitioner or student has or may have an impairment and the Board decides it is necessary or appropriate for the matter to be referred to a panel.

The Panel hearing overview encompasses data about both performance and professional standards panels and health panels.

The tables below show the number of panel hearings commenced and completed during the reporting period and the number of panel hearings that are open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 22.1 Number of panel hearings commenced, by type of panel hearing

	Total
Performance and Professional Standards Panel	9
Health Panel	
Total	9

Table 22.2 Number of panel hearings completed, by type of panel hearing

	Total
Performance and Professional Standards Panel	7
Health Panel	
Total	7

Table 22.3 Number of panel hearings open at the end of the reporting period, by type of panel hearing

	December
Performance and Professional Standards Panel	32
Health Panel	
Total	32

Outcomes and timeliness of completed panel hearings

The tables below show the outcomes of the panel hearings completed during the reporting period and the timeliness of these completed panel hearings.

Table 23.1 Number of panel hearings completed, by outcome, by type of panel hearing

Outcome	PPSP	Health Panel	Total
Outcome of decision to take	Outcome of decision to take the notification further		
Investigation			0
Health or performance assessment			0
Tribunal hearing			0
Other stage			0
Outcome of decision to close the notification			
Accept undertaking			0
Caution	3		3
Impose conditions	4		4
No further action			0
Reprimand			0
Total	7	0	7

Table 23.2 Number of panel hearings completed, by time frame, by type of panel hearing

Time frame	PPSP	Health Panel	Total
Completed in ≤ 6 months	2		2
Completed in > 6 months	5		5
Total	7	0	7

Timeliness of open panel hearings

The table below shows the timeliness of panel hearings that remain open at the end of the reporting period.

Table 24.1 Number of panel hearings open at end, by time frame, by type of panel hearing

Time frame	PPSP	Health Panel	December
Open for ≤ 6 months	17		17
Open for > 6 months	15		15
Total	32	0	32

Monitoring and compliance

Registrant monitoring overview

Health practitioners and students may have restrictions placed on their registration for a range of reasons including as a result of a notification, the assessment of an application for registration or a renewal of registration, or after a referral to the tribunal. These restrictions are actively monitored to ensure compliance.

The tables below show, by stream, the number of monitoring cases commenced and completed during the reporting period and the number of monitoring cases open at the end of the reporting period. A practitioner may have more than one monitoring case.

The tables below show the number of practitioners with conditions or undertakings on their registration.

Table 25.1 Number of monitoring cases commenced

Stream	Total
Conduct	19
Health	53
Performance	35
Prohibited Practitioner / Student	19
Total	126

Table 25.2 Number of monitoring cases completed

Stream	Total
Conduct	25
Health	64
Performance	42
Prohibited Practitioner / Student	10
Total	141

Table 25.3 Number of monitoring cases open at the end of the reporting period

Stream	December
Conduct	121
Health	269
Performance	175
Prohibited Practitioner / Student	40
Total	605

Table 25.4 Number of practitioners with conditions or undertakings on their registration

Profession	December
ATSIHP	20
Chinese Medicine Practitioner	130
Chiropractor	9
Dental Practitioner	42
Medical Practitioner	316
Medical Radiation Practitioner	31
Midwife	14
Nurse	337
Nurse and Midwife	23
Occupational Therapist	8
Optometrist	3
Osteopath	1
Pharmacist	44
Physiotherapist	17
Podiatrist	3
Psychologist	33
Total	1,031

Table 25.5 Number of suspended practitioners at the end of the reporting period, by profession

Profession	December
Chinese Medicine Practitioner	2
Chiropractor	1
Dental Practitioner	1
Medical Practitioner	13
Medical Radiation Practitioner	1
Midwife	1
Nurse	33
Nurse and Midwife	1
Optometrist	1
Psychologist	1
Total	55

Outcomes and duration of completed monitoring cases

The tables below show the outcomes of monitoring cases that were completed during the reporting period.

The tables below show the duration of monitoring cases completed during the reporting period. It should be noted that some matters will require monitoring of compliance activity for significant periods, including some for the lifespan of a practitioner's registration. A National Board decides when to remove a requirement for monitoring a practitioner's compliance with conditions on their registration when it is assured conditions are no longer needed to keep the public safe. The length of time a practitioner is monitored is tailored to the risk posed by the individual practitioner.

Table 26.1 Number of monitoring cases completed, by outcome

Outcome	Total
Acquired non-practising registration	7
Acquired unrestricted registration	1
Change or remove conditions or undertaking –under s125	62
Removal of condition or revocation of undertaking – under s127	35
Completed board requirements	1
Elected not to renew	26
Panel order	1
Registration cancelled	1
Surrendered registration	5
Other	2
Total	141

Table 26.2 Number of monitoring cases completed, by duration

Duration	Total
Completed in ≤ 12 months	74
Completed in > 12 months but ≤ 24 months	41
Completed in > 24 months	26
Total	141

Duration and risk profile of open monitoring cases

Table 27.1 Number of monitoring cases open, by duration

Duration	December
Open for ≤ 12 months	326
Open for > 12 months but ≤ 24 months	146
Open for > 24 months	133
Total	605

Status of open monitoring cases, by profession

The tables below show the number of open monitoring cases, risk profile and level of compliance. These tables report on the risk profile of the practitioner and the compliance status of a monitoring case. When AHPRA's monitoring reveals a practitioner's non-compliance, the matter is referred to a Board to consider further regulatory action. The time frame for this action depends on the level of risk posed to the public by the non-compliance.

The risk profile identifies those registrants that will cause the public, themselves or the reputation of the National Boards and AHPRA significant and immediate harm if the behaviour or conduct leading to the restrictions was to recur. A registrant is evaluated to have a normal risk profile if the recurrence of the behaviour or conduct will not cause the public, the registrant or the reputation of the National Boards and AHPRA significant and immediate harm. A registrant is evaluated to have a high risk profile if the recurrence of the behaviour will cause significant and immediate harm.

The risk posed by any breach of specific restrictions is different in each case and is managed individually. Not all breaches of restrictions require action to protect the public. For example, a practitioner who is two weeks late completing a required education program due to illness, has breached the condition on their registration, but the breach does not demonstrate increased risk to the public which needs to be managed.

The risk profile of each practitioner being monitored determines both how swiftly AHPRA responds and what action is taken.

Table 28.1 Number of monitoring cases where practitioner risk profile was normal, by profession

Profession	Compliant	Suspected non-compliant	Non- compliant	Compliance status yet to be assigned ¹
ATSIHP	1			
Chinese Medicine Practitioner	1			
Chiropractor	6			
Dental Practitioner	16		1	
Medical Practitioner	65		1	
Medical Radiation Practitioner	1	2		
Midwife				
Nurse	110	8	9	1
Occupational Therapist	3			1
Optometrist	2			
Osteopath	1			
Pharmacist	20			
Physiotherapist	4			1
Podiatrist	1			
Psychologist	13	1	1	
Total	244	11	12	3

Table 28.2 Number of monitoring cases where practitioner risk profile was high, by profession

Profession	Compliant	Suspected non-compliant	Non- compliant	Compliance status yet to be assigned ¹
ATSIHP				
Chinese Medicine Practitioner	1			
Chiropractor	3			
Dental Practitioner	17	1	3	
Medical Practitioner	131	12	7	
Medical Radiation Practitioner	3		1	
Midwife	2	1		
Nurse	99	7	9	
Occupational Therapist			1	
Optometrist	1			
Osteopath				
Pharmacist	10		2	
Physiotherapist	4		2	
Podiatrist	2			
Psychologist	15			1
Total	288	21	25	1

^{1 –} Where the compliance status is yet to be assigned, in Tables 0.0 and **Error! Reference source not found.**, it relates to a Health, Performance or Conduct case not yet due for a Compliance Status update.

Table 28.3 Number of monitoring cases where practitioner risk profile was normal, by stream

Stream	Compliant	Suspected non-compliant	Non- compliant	Compliance status yet to be assigned ¹
Health	82	6	7	1
Performance	88	2	2	2
Conduct	52	3	2	
Prohibited practitioner / student	22		1	
Total	244	11	12	3

Table 28.4 Number of monitoring cases where practitioner risk profile was high, by stream

Profession	Compliant	Suspected non-compliant	Non- compliant	Compliance status yet to be assigned ¹
Health	144	11	18	
Performance	71	5	5	
Conduct	57	5	2	
Prohibited practitioner / student	16			1
Total	288	21	25	1

^{1 –} Where the compliance status is yet to be assigned, in Tables 0.0 and **Error! Reference source not found.**, it relates to a Health, Performance or Conduct case not yet due for a Compliance Status update.

Other requested tables under the heading "Status of open monitoring cases"

AHPRA does not currently have system capability to generate some of the data requested by the Health Ombudsman. Some of this data will be manually collected as part of the Health Ombudsman's quality assurance activities.

Online National Register

Timeliness of changes to the online register

The tables below show the timeliness to update the online register of practitioners following a decision to alter the status of a practitioner's registration. The decision to alter a practitioner's registration status may arise as a result of a notification, monitoring a practitioner's compliance with already imposed restrictions, or as a requirement of a practitioner's type of registration. The below tables show the timeliness to update a practitioner's registration status following a notification or monitoring and compliance activity.

Table 29.1 shows the number of registrations that were suspended during the period. Suspensions do not result in a practitioner's name being removed from the register. A practitioner's name is removed from the register when registration is surrendered or cancelled. A practitioner may surrender their registration at any time. This may be during the management of a notification, while being monitored for compliance with restrictions on registration, at the renewal of registration or any other time.

Table 29.1 Of those practitioner registrations cancelled or suspended during the reporting period, number of practitioners whose name was removed from the Online National Register within 48 hours of their registration being cancelled or surrendered.

Decision	Within 48 hours	More than 48 hours	Total
Registrations updated from notification decisions			
Suspend registration	12	1	13
Registrations updated from monitoring and compliance decisions			
Suspend registration	2		2
Total	14	1	15

Table 29.2 Of those practitioners with sanctions (i.e. suspension, reprimand, caution, conditions or undertakings) imposed, removed or altered during the reporting period, number of practitioners whose registration status was updated on the Online National Register within 48 hours of the sanction being imposed, removed or altered.

Decision	Within 48 hours	More than 48 hours	Total	
Registrations updated from notification decisions				
Reprimand	1		1	
Impose conditions	53	28	81	
Accept undertaking	10	11	21	
Registrations updated from monitoring and compliance decisions				
Impose Conditions	4	7	11	
Change conditions	9	26	35	
Remove conditions	55	70	125	
Revoke undertaking	15	10	25	
Total	147	152	299	