

Professions Reference Group communiqué

The Professions Reference Group (PRG) met via video conference on Wednesday 20 April 2022. The meeting was chaired by Nello Marino from the Australian Podiatry Association.

The PRG discussed the following:

- The 2021-2022 new graduate campaign covered the peak registration period from 13 September 2021 to 31 March 2022. There were 32,861 applications received during this period (4.1% increase from the previous year). An internal review was completed to evaluate the campaign and to form recommendations for continuous improvement. Despite increased volumes across all application types, operational performance results were improved across all key metrics when compared to the previous campaign. The campaign consistently ran at higher rates of applications finalised/ registered (across all application types) when compared to the previous year. A survey of graduates on their experience was also successful, with 83.1% of all survey respondents satisfied overall with how their application was handled by Ahpra.
- On the 1 April 2022, the Community Affairs References Committee of the Australian Senate (the Committee) published the report of their Inquiry into the Administration of registration and notifications by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and related entities under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the Inquiry). The report includes 14 recommendations, some of which are matters for Health Ministers, and some are for Ahpra and National Boards to consider further.
- The independent review of cosmetic surgery public consultation process has now closed, and the reviewer has heard from almost 800 stakeholders, receiving more than 550 responses to the consumer survey, and over 230 submissions from health practitioners and other stakeholders. The review is due to report in mid-2022. The review is being supported by a policy and secretariat team within Ahpra. A cosmetic surgery review webpage has also been established, including frequently asked questions which are being updated regularly.
- The Accreditation Liaison Group (ALG) in collaboration with National Boards and Accreditation Authorities has prepared an annual accreditation activity report to provide stakeholders with a snapshot of accreditation activity data for the relevant financial year. The reports are published on Ahpra's website – the first was prepared for 2017/18 and the next report will cover the 2021/22 financial year.
- Ahpra is continuing to work with jurisdictions and other stakeholders to connect practitioners on the sub-register to employers as part of the surge workforce across the health and aged care system. The self-service opt-in function will remain open until mid-August 2022 for practitioners we did not hear from, allowing them to choose to extend their registration using a fast pathway to continue to be available as part of a surge health workforce in response to COVID-19.

Nello Marino

Chair

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