

Expression of interest – Paramedicine Board of Australia Private Sector Employers Reference Group

2 February 2023

Expression of Interest

Title of engagement: Paramedicine Board of Australia Private Sector Employers Reference Group membership

The Paramedicine Board of Australia (Board) is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from employers of paramedics in the private sector to become members of a reference group being established.

The purpose of the reference group is to facilitate communication and engagement between the Board and a representative group of private sector employers of paramedics across Australia. The reference group is proposed solely as an engagement forum to discuss current or emerging matters related to the registration and regulation of paramedics, particularly those practicing in the private sector.

Closing date: 19 March 2023

Contact: Mr Paul Fisher, Executive Officer Paramedicine

Background

The national regulation of paramedics

The national regulation of paramedics started in late 2018. The Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) carried out an intensive program of work to ensure that the Board has the necessary regulatory infrastructure needed for the regulation of the paramedicine profession and that the profession was sufficiently prepared to become a regulated health profession. Before 2018, paramedics did not need to be registered in any state or territory, so national regulation represented a significant change for the profession in knowledge, understanding and conduct.

The national regulation of the 16 health professions, including paramedicine, is governed by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 as enacted in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Paramedicine Board of Australia

The Board is appointed by Ministers under the National Law. It works in partnership with 15 other National Boards and Ahpra to implement the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). The principle aim of the National Scheme is to protect the public by only registering suitably qualified and competent practitioners who practice safely and ethically. The Board also holds paramedics to account against the requirements and standards set by the National Law and the Board.

[Read more about the Board and its work on its website.](#)

Paramedicine Board of Australia
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
GPO Box 9958 Melbourne VIC 3001 Paramedicineboard.gov.au 1300 419 495

Ahpra

Ahpra provides support to the 15 National Boards covered by the scheme in exercising their functions. Ahpra administers procedures to ensure the efficient and effective operations of the National Boards; this includes any state and territory boards and committees established by the National Boards.

The services provided by Ahpra to the National Boards employ best practice approaches to regulation and cover:

- registration functions
- the management of a national public register of health practitioners
- the receipt of complaints on behalf of the National Boards, and
- subject to decisions by states and territories, professional investigations and disciplinary prosecutions on behalf of National Boards.

[Read more about Ahpra and its work on its website.](#)

Cultural Safety

Cultural safety is embedded in the National Law which governs all health practitioners in Australia. In October 2022 a new objective and guiding principle was included in the National Law that acknowledges the National Scheme's role in ensuring the development of a culturally safe and respectful health workforce that:

- is responsive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their health, and
- contributes to the elimination of racism in the provision of health services.

The Board endorses the [joint statement between Ahpra, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group and the National Health Leadership Forum.](#)

Communication and engagement

Effective communication and engagement with the paramedicine profession is a critical element of the Board's regulatory strategy. Improving the exchange of information with the profession will help improve the professions' knowledge and understanding of the requirements for registration and the ethical and professional values that guide the professional behaviour and performance of paramedics. It will also provide an opportunity for the Board to receive feedback on its regulatory work and information on emerging issues in the practice of the profession.

Expressions of interest - criteria

Expressions of interest (EOIs) will be considered and evaluated. Identified respondents may be shortlisted from the EOI process and will be contacted as part of a request for proposal process (RFP) to move towards an appointment to the reference group.

EOIs will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Your organisation's relevance to the membership categories and criteria published in the Terms of Reference for this reference group

All EOIs will need to show they have alignment with one or more of the categories of membership of the reference group.

More detailed information may need to be submitted as part of any subsequent RFP process.

2. The level and extent of the delivery of health services by paramedics in your organisation

All EOIs need to give information about the nature and extent of the of the work undertaken by paramedics in their organisation.

More detailed information may need to be submitted as part of any subsequent RFP process.

3. Potential for contribution to the reference group

All EOI's need to include a high-level submission outlining their interest and ability to contribute to the purpose of the reference group.

More detailed information may need to be submitted as part of any subsequent RFP process.

4. Ability to attend meetings

Reference Group members will need to be prepared to attend meetings within 2 months of approval by the Board and on the prescribed basis thereafter.

Timetable

The timeline for the EOI process are indicated below. These dates are advised as a guide only to projected timelines. The National Board and Ahpra will try to maintain this schedule but reserve the right to vary dates.

Date EOI released – 16 February 2023
Closing date for EOI – 19 March 2023, by 5:00 pm, Australian Eastern Standard Time
Review of submissions – April 2023
Request for proposal (if required) – May 2023
Notification of outcome – June 2023

Evaluation

Each EOI will be assessed against the criteria below.

Evaluation criteria
1. Your organisation's relevance to the membership categories and criteria published in the Terms of Reference
2. The level and extent of the delivery of health services by paramedics in your organisation
3. Potential for contribution to the reference group
4. Ability to attend meetings

EOIs will be evaluated against the criteria listed above and scored using the following scale.

Evaluation	Score
Exceeds all aspects of the evaluation criterion	4
Exceeds some aspects of evaluation criterion (and meets all other aspects of the evaluation criterion)	3
Meets the evaluation criterion	2
Fails some aspects of the evaluation criterion	1
Fails all aspects of the evaluation criterion.	0

As advised above, organisations that may be shortlisted from the EOI process may be invited to give further information in a selective Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

All submissions in the EOI process will be advised of the outcome of their submission to this EOI process.

Further information

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Board's Executive Officer Paul Fisher directly on 03 8708 9047 or by email (paul.fisher@ahpra.gov.au)