



Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Nursing and Midwifery
Optometry

Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Media release

16 January 2012

2012 professions urged to prepare for national regulation

Four new professions join the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2012:

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice](#)
- [Chinese medicine](#)
- [medical radiation practice](#)
- [occupational therapy](#)

In a move that further strengthens public protection, practitioners in four health professions will shortly be regulated under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, medical radiation practice and occupational therapy.

Each of the new professions will be regulated by their own National Boards and from 1 July 2012 will join the 10 other professions already part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Practitioners from the four new professions are urged to prepare for joining the National Scheme to ensure they are registered by 1 July 2012 by accessing their National Board's website via www.ahpra.gov.au for important information. Practitioners who are not currently required to be registered in a state or territory are encouraged to apply for national registration by 31 March 2012.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) Management Committee Chair Peter Allen said the extension of the National Scheme would help strengthen public protection.

"New national registration standards provide important safeguards for the community," Mr Allen said.

The standards, signed off by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 13 January 2012, cover criminal history, professional indemnity insurance, recency of practice, English language skills and continuing professional development.

A grand-parenting registration standard has also been approved, detailing how the transition to the new standards will apply. A standard has also been approved linking registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner with being an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

"The standards were developed by each of the National Boards after extensive consultation. National Boards and everyone who contributed feedback to the consultations are to be commended for their commitment," Mr Allen said.

AHPRA Chief Executive Officer Martin Fletcher urged practitioners in these four professions to visit the AHPRA website to find out what to do to make sure they are registered by 1 July 2012.

“AHPRA’s website (www.ahpra.gov.au) is a gateway to a host of information to make the transfer to the National Scheme as easy and as smooth as possible for practitioners, and provides information to the community about the National Scheme,” Mr Fletcher said.

The National Scheme will provide greater transparency for the community about the four new professions.

“Anyone in the community can access the online [Registers of Practitioners](#) which list all registered health practitioners in Australia. From 1 July the registers will include the names of practitioners of the four new professions as well as any special conditions or undertakings associated with their registration,” Mr Fletcher said.

For more information

- Visit [National Board](#) websites for a FAQ on transfer to the National Scheme
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200