

Communiqué

Meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

25 August 2011

On 25 August 2011 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (the Board) met for the second time. At the meeting the Board considered a number of key issues relating to the registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, registration and accreditation will become mandatory for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, occupational therapists and medical radiation practitioners from 1 July 2012.

Stakeholder consultation on draft registration standards

The Board agreed to release a series of draft registration standards for stakeholder consultation over a six week period—31 August to 7 October 2011. The proposed registration standards will cover professional indemnity insurance, matters about the criminal history of applicants for registration, requirements for continuing professional development, requirements for English language skills and requirements in relation to previous practice.

In addition, the Board also agreed to release three further standards for consultation over the same period. The additional standards cover eligibility for registration, grandparenting provisions and a requirement that any practitioner seeking to be registered as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health practitioner must also be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

Board members agreed that stakeholder feedback will be critical to inform the final draft standards which the Board will submit to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval later this year.

Making a submission

From 31 August 2011 all of the draft standards, along with details on how to make a submission to the Board, will be available on the Board's website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/NRAS.aspx>.

The Board will publish all submissions, unless marked as confidential, on its website to encourage discussion and keep community and stakeholders informed.

Communications Strategy

The Board acknowledged that an effective communications strategy incorporating practitioners, governments, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and other key stakeholders will be crucial to the commencement of the new national arrangements by 1 July 2012. The Board agreed that further consideration of this issue will be a key priority and has established a Communications Committee to specifically consider how best to communicate with practitioners over the next 12 months.

Peter Pangquee

Chair