

Communiqué

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

16 September 2011

The third meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 16 September 2011 concurrently with the national boards' annual conference in Sydney.

Stakeholder consultation on draft registration standards

The Board is pleased to note that on 6 September 2011 a series of draft registration standards were published for stakeholder consultation. The proposed registration standards cover professional indemnity insurance, criminal history of applicants for registration, requirements for continuing professional development, requirements for English language skills and requirements in relation to recency of practice.

The Board is also consulting on draft standards for grandparenting provisions, eligibility for registration and a requirement that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health practitioners be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

The Board urges all interested people to make a submission on the proposed standards and send it via email to atsihpboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au marked "Registration Standards". The closing date for submissions is 5pm Monday, 10 October 2011. Unfortunately no late submissions will be accepted because the Board will only have a short period of time to finalise the standards before submitting them to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval.

Making a submission

The draft standards along with details about how to make a submission to the Board are available on the Board's website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/atsi/News/Consultations.aspx>.

Additional standards, codes and guidelines

The Board plans to consult on a number of guidelines over the coming months which will expand on the requirements of the standards currently subject to consultation, outline the mandatory reporting obligations under the National Law and address requirements relating to the advertising of practitioner services.

Communication strategy

At the meeting, the Board agreed to a detailed communication strategy acknowledging the importance of a widespread plan to ensure that both registered and unregistered practitioners, and other key stakeholders, are informed about the progress and commencement of national registration.

The Board is pleased to announce that it now has a designated website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/atsi.aspx>. All interested parties are encouraged to visit the website and

participate in consultation on standards, policies, codes and guidelines. Your input will help shape how national regulation works for the profession from 1 July 2012.

Finance

The Board commenced budget planning including the development of a Health Professions Agreement with AHPRA. This will help to inform future discussions on the determination of registration fees. The Board also considered a number of other administrative and financial matters.

Peter Pangquee

Chair

16 September 2011