

## Communiqué

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

19 October 2011

The fourth meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 19 October 2011 in Melbourne.

The Board is making good progress against its work plan and as in previous meetings, the Board continued work to prepare for the commencement of national registration on 1 July 2012.

#### Stakeholder Feedback on draft registration standards

The Board was pleased to receive a number of submissions on its draft registration standards consultation paper, and would like to thank stakeholders for their interest and valuable contributions. Those submissions not marked confidential are available on the Board's website.

All feedback was considered by the Board as part of reviewing the draft registration standards. These are now being prepared for submission to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for their endorsement. The final proposals will be available on the Board's website by early November 2011. The Ministerial Council is expected to consider the proposals in December 2011, to enable the Board's standards to be made available on the web before early applications are invited in February 2012, and before commencement of national registration on 1 July 2012.

#### Additional standards, codes and guidelines

At the meeting, the Board considered developing for consultation, draft guidelines on mandatory notifications, which explain the requirements under the national law for health practitioners, employers and education providers to make compulsory notifications about health practitioners in certain circumstances. The Board also considered releasing for consultation, draft guidelines on the advertising of services provided by registered practitioners and a code of conduct for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. The Board agreed to further develop this work over the coming month with a view to releasing draft guidelines for public consultation in November 2011.

#### Communication strategy

The Board continues to follow its communication strategy, disseminating information about national registration to both registered and unregistered practitioners in all jurisdictions. This includes identifying a specific officer within AHPRA who can answer questions about the introduction of national registration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners when someone calls the 1300 419 496 number. The Chair and the Executive Officer of the Board have also provided a series of presentations and discussed national registration at various employer group forums as the opportunity has arisen.

## **Accreditation arrangements**

The Board discussed accreditation arrangements and agreed that further consideration would need to be given to possible accreditation models with the aim of releasing a paper for consultation on the Board's preferred accreditation arrangements after the November meeting.

## **Finance**

Work on the Board's budget and the registration fees for 2012–2013 is progressing on schedule.

The Board acknowledged the continuing efforts of the Aboriginal Health Worker Board in the Northern Territory and the NRAS 2012 Project team in preparing for the national registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in 2012, and looks forward to a continued joint effort in the coming months.

Peter Pangquee

Chair

2 November 2011