

Communiqué

Sixth meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board of Australia

15 December 2011

At its sixth meeting in Adelaide the Board discussed a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme on 1 July 2012.

This Communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the progress in the work of the National Board.

Update on registration standards

The Board is expecting to hear the outcomes of the Ministerial Council's consideration of the Board's proposed registration standards very soon. The final approved standards and information about registration fees will be published on the Board's website at www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au after the Health Ministers' decision.

Communication

The Chair of the Board, along with other Board members, has attended a number of forums to provide presentations on the introduction of national registration and accreditation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. This work will continue and potentially increase in the lead up to the commencement of the national scheme on 1 July 2012.

The Board is now focussed on developing and implementing an effective communication plan to provide accurate information to those that will be affected by the introduction of the scheme. In particular, the Board is trying to identify those people outside the Northern Territory who must be registered by 1 July 2012 to continue working. Once identified, the Board will mail information and application forms directly to this group. The Board is also planning a comprehensive general communication strategy which will target all those potential registrants and others with an interest in the scheme. This general strategy will include presentations, media articles, posters, brochures and other material as appropriate.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and fact sheets will also be available on the Board's website shortly.

April letter to current registrants in the Northern Territory

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board of Australia will be writing to every Aboriginal Health Worker currently registered in the Northern Territory in March/April 2012, to support their

transition into the national scheme. The letter will outline each practitioner's registration type from 1 July 2012 and explain what registered Aboriginal Health Workers will have to do to ensure a safe transition to the national scheme. The letter will also detail the personal and professional information that will appear on the online national Register of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

The Board has made a range of decisions about the transition of current registrants. In general, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners will transition to the type of registration that best matches their current registration. While the name of some registration categories will change, the Board has no intention of changing any currently registered Aboriginal Health Worker's scope of practice. Registrants will be further advised about how they are required to respond to the letter, closer to the time.

Accreditation

The Board agreed to establish an accreditation committee to undertake accreditation functions for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health profession. The Board has agreed that the composition of the accreditation committee should include an educationalist, a professional academic and a practitioner. However, the Board would like to seek views on whether a community representative. The Board expects to release its consultation paper on accreditation shortly.

Peter Pangquee

Chair

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