

## Communiqué

# Ninth meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

26 April 2012

At its third meeting for 2012, the Board continued to progress issues around the registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and the accreditation of relevant training courses and training providers.

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

### Registration applications

Applications for the registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners have been open since February 2012 with application forms available on the Board's website at [www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au)

The Board strongly encourages those practitioners who are required to register (see dot points below), but have not already done so, to submit their application form as soon as possible to enable processing to occur prior to 1 July 2012

The Board reminds practitioners that:

- from 1 July 2012, practitioners must be registered in order to use the protected titles *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner*, *Aboriginal health practitioner* or *Torres Strait Islander health practitioner*
- if you are a registered Aboriginal Health Worker in the Northern Territory on 30 June 2012, you will automatically be registered as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner on 1 July 2012. You will need to be registered to continue working in a clinical role in the Northern Territory
- those people not in the Northern Territory who are required by their employer to use these protected titles will also need to be registered to continue working after 1 July 2012
- after 1 July 2012, those practitioners who are not required by their employer to use these protected titles will not be required to be registered, and will be able to keep working using their existing titles (e.g. *Aboriginal Health Worker*, *Drug and Alcohol Worker* or *Mental Health Worker*), and
- other practitioners who meet the Board's standards may choose to be registered but will not have to register by 1 July 2012.

## Accreditation

The Board is currently seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people to take up positions on the Board's proposed Accreditation Committee and to be included on a list of experts which will provide advice to the committee on accreditation matters as required.

The Board would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who fits into one of the following categories:

- educationalists, preferably with experience working in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector and in delivering training in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice)
- accreditation experts, preferably within the health sector
- persons who are registered, or will be eligible for registration, as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, and
- other persons who can demonstrate they have relevant expertise and experience in accreditation which would be of value to the committee.

These positions were advertised in *The Australian* newspaper on Saturday 7 April 2012 and have since also been circulated widely through the various stakeholder networks.

To register your interest, please send a copy of your curriculum vitae and a letter outlining why you think you would be suitable to fulfil one of these roles to the Board's Executive Officer at [kerri.kellett@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:kerri.kellett@ahpra.gov.au) by close of business on Friday 18 May 2012.

## Guidelines

The Board recently posted its finalised Code of Conduct and guidelines on advertising, mandatory reporting, continuing professional development, recency of practice and grandparenting on its website. These will apply to all registered practitioners and those seeking to be registered with the Board.

## General matters

Further information about national registration and the registration requirements of the Board, including a series of frequently asked questions, is available on the Board's website, [www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au) or by calling 1300 419 495.

Peter Pangquee  
Chair  
26 April 2012