

Communiqué

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

5 June 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.

The Board would like to reiterate that the following arrangements will apply under the national scheme from 1 July 2012.

- 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.

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

The Board strongly encourages those practitioners who are required to register (see dot points above), but have not already done so, to submit their application form as soon as possible.

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 or by calling 1300 419 495.

Peter Pangquee
Chair
6 June 2012