

Communiqué

June 2012 meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (the Board) continues to progress issues around the registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and the accreditation of relevant training courses and training providers.

Registration

Although practitioners have now missed the date for being registered by 1 July 2012, it is not too late. 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.

From 1 July 2012, the following arrangements will apply:

- 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.
- 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 the need to do so will be less urgent.

AHPRA staff across the country are available and ready to assist practitioners who are applying for registration. Call our Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 for support and guidance.

Application forms for registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners are available on the Board's website at www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au.

Accreditation arrangements

The first meeting of the Selection Panel for the Board's Accreditation Committee was held to short list those who had lodged an expression of interest for inclusion on the Board's Accreditation Committee and list of experts on accreditation matters. The Selection Panel consists of Board members, a representative from AHPRA and an independent external member. Short listed applicants will be contacted shortly to arrange a follow up interview.

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

Peter Pangquee
Chair
29 June 2012