

## Communiqué

---

### August 2015 meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

#### Introduction

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (the Board) works in partnership with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to implement the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). Details about individual Board members can be found on the Board's [website](#).

The Board's most recent quarterly meeting was held on 26 August 2015 at the AHPRA office in Darwin. The last quarterly meeting for 2015 will be held in Melbourne in November.

We publish this communiqué on our website. Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

#### End of grandparenting provisions

From 30 June 2015, the arrangements that allowed some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals to become registered as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners expired.

Some of the applications for registration received before the 30 June deadline for the end of grandparenting are still being considered by the Board. If you lodged your application for registration before 30 June, you may call the AHPRA registration officer responsible for applications made under the grandparenting provisions on (08) 8901 8527.

Individuals applying for registration after 30 June 2015 must have successfully completed a qualification from an approved program of study. These programs of study are published on the Board's [website](#). More programs of study are being included as they are approved by the Board.

#### AHPRA and the National Boards welcome Ministers' response to National Scheme review report

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council met on 7 August 2015 at the COAG Health Council meeting to consider the final report of the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

The purpose of the independent review was to identify what is working well in the National Scheme and the opportunities to improve and strengthen the operation of the scheme to regulate health professions to protect the public.

Ministers expressed strong support for the work of the National Scheme, noted that it was now embedded in the health system and was among the most significant and effective reforms of health profession regulation in Australia and internationally.

More information about the review can be found on the [COAG Health Council](#) website and on [AHPRA's](#) website.

#### Standards compliance audit

All health practitioners registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), are required to comply with a range of registration standards.

These standards were developed after wide-ranging consultation and have been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

Last year the Board participated in an audit of registration standard compliance. In the coming months, AHPRA will again randomly select Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners to audit their compliance with the Board's registration standards.

An information pack will be sent to those selected for audit. Additional information is available on the [Board's website](#).

### Revised criminal history registration standard now in effect

The revised [criminal history registration standard](#) that is the same across all the regulated health professions came into effect from 1 July 2015.

This standard was developed after a review of the current standard and public consultation. It is approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

## Registration

### Current registration figures

The Board collects and analyses data about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner registrations. The Board shares the data and analyses each quarter on its website.

The data provided is:

- state and territory by registration type
- age by registration type, and
- gender by state and territory by registration type.

In addition to the above statistics, this communiqué provides stakeholders with an overview of specific data over a period of time.

The table below shows that by the end of June 2015 there were 391 registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in Australia.

ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	No PPP	TOTAL
4	54	215	47	13	3	7	47	1	<b>391</b>

The overwhelming majority of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners are in the Northern Territory, with 215 registrants nominating the NT as their principal place of practice (PPP). This represents 55% of the profession.

New South Wales hosts the second largest registrant base for this profession with 14%. This is followed by Queensland (12%), Western Australia (12%) and South Australia (3%).

### Top tips for using the register

The [national register of practitioners](#) is core to all of our work because it provides up-to-date information about every registered health practitioner. To help the public and employers get the most out of the register, we have developed [these tips](#). In particular, the tips remind anyone responsible for recruiting health practitioners how to use the register to verify a practitioner's registration status.

### Are your contact details up to date?

AHPRA will be sending out the first round of renewal reminder notices next month. It is important that your contact details are up to date.

You can check your contact details via the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website.

Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call 1300 419 495.

### **Security tip – keep your web browser updated**

AHPRA and the National Boards have made changes to our websites to ensure your information is kept safe.

If you use Internet Explorer version 6 (or an older version) to view the Board's website and are experiencing difficulty accessing web pages and online services, the Board recommends you [upgrade to the newest version of Internet Explorer immediately](#). It is available for free from Microsoft.

If you are using a new version of Internet Explorer and are still having difficulty accessing our website please contact us to report your experience. Call **1300 419 495** Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

### **Follow @AHPRA on Twitter**

AHPRA uses Twitter to encourage greater discussion about National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

### **Conclusion**

We publish a range of information about registration and our expectations of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners on our website at [www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au](http://www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

For more information or help with questions about your registration please send a web enquiry form or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

### **Bruce Davis**

Presiding Member

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

9 September 2015