

Communiqué

August 2018 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 (National Scheme). Details about individual Board members can be found on the Board's [website](#).

The Board's most recent quarterly meeting was held in Adelaide in August, the third for 2018. The Board meets as the Registration and Notification Committee (RNC) in between these meetings to consider registration and notification (complaint) matters about individual practitioners. The Board then meets to consider policy and other matters.

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

Board meeting in Adelaide

During the meeting in Adelaide, the Board were very pleased to receive a presentation from Kurt Towers, Director of Aboriginal Health, Government of South Australia.

Kurt Towers provided an insightful talk about Aboriginal Health Practitioners in acute, sub-acute and primary health settings at Watto Purrinna Aboriginal Health Service in South Australia. The health service employs 80 full time staff, of which approximately 50% are Aboriginal.

The primary health care services provides over 21,000 client services for over 2,300 clients each year across four sites:

- Kanggawodli
- Maringga Turtpandi
- Wonggangga Turtpandi
- Muna Paiendi

Services provided include health screening (ear and hearing, well health checks, cervical and bowel, sexual health), immunisation, management of acute illness and chronic conditions, clinical services, outreach and home visits.

Aboriginal Health Practitioners also lead promotional activities such as fitness, diabetes education, cancer screening awareness, parenting and child health.

Kurt and other key stakeholders joined the Board for dinner the previous evening.

Review of registration standards

As highlighted in previous communiqués and newsletters, the Board has been reviewing its core registration standards. After the review process was complete, the revised draft registrations standards progressed to the approval stage.

Scheduling of the review brought the registration standards in line with the expiry of the Grandparenting provisions of the National Law.

The registration standards that have been reviewed are:

- professional indemnity insurance arrangements (PII)
- continuing professional development (CPD)
- recency of practice (RoP)
- English language skills, and
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander registration standard.

During the public consultation period (which is now closed) a variety of individuals and entities provided thoughtful and considered feedback.

Issues of particular interest from stakeholders included the changes to the continuing professional development (CPD) registration standard. The standard proposes to simplify requirements to 20 hours of CPD per year, including five hours of 'interactive' CPD.

Some feedback indicated beliefs that there may be an impact to service delivery if staff had to leave for periods of time to attend formal CPD events. As explained in the draft revised registration standard, 'interactive' does not necessarily mean leaving home to attend a course – whereas interactive CPD may be online and may be conducted with other practitioners (not necessarily from the same profession) at work.

Practitioners should choose CPD that relates directly to their jobs – whether clinical, administrative or otherwise. The Board does not define scope of practice – what registered practitioners do is generally determined by their role.

Other feedback focussed on concerns about the removal of the (currently required) first aid certificate in the RoP registration standard. As the Board does not define scope of practice for registrants, it knows that not everyone's work requires a first aid certificate. If required, they are generally provided by the employer.

While it's good for everyone to have a current first aid certificate, the Board must be careful not to put an unintended barrier in place by establishing requirements that are not necessary for all.

The next step in the process for changing to the new registration standards is to send the draft revised registration standards to the Health Ministers, through the Ministerial Council, for their consideration for approval.

Current registration standards remain active and updates on when changes are expected will be provided at a later date.

Visit to the Royal Adelaide Hospital

After the meetings in Adelaide, the Board visited the new Royal Adelaide Hospital Aboriginal Health Service and part of the new hospital. Members were welcomed and inspired by services provided to the community and were further impressed at the extensive catchment area for this tertiary hospital.



Visit to Kangawadli

Following the visit to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Board members visited Kangawadli in Dudley Park.

Kangawadli is a culturally safe accommodation service available for Aboriginal people who live more than 100km from Adelaide and are attending clinical appointments. It includes the Watto Purrinna Aboriginal Primary Health Care Service.

People can stay at Kangawodli for up to three months.



It was great to have a cuppa around the fire pit, tour the facilities and hear about the social and emotional support available, as well as transport, access to different health services and how they provide a bridge between the acute sector and the community – linking the points of care.

The Board thanks everyone who helped make our visits so worthwhile and congratulate them on their inspiring work. It was also great to see Aboriginal Health Practitioners at work in clinical roles at this fantastic facility.

Fees set for 2018/19

The Board has recently announced the national registration fee for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners for 2018/19.

The registration fee has been frozen at \$150. It will cover the registration period for most practitioners from 1 December 2018 to 30 November 2019. A [full fee](#) schedule, including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW, has been published on the Board's website.

The fee ensures that the Board has the funds required to carry out its duties and to protect the public.

Fees support the Board in the continual development of a safe and mobile Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner workforce for health practitioners and the public in the most efficient ways possible.

Request for tender: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety training

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) invites experienced parties to develop and deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety training by either a sole supplier who can deliver services nationally or a panel of suppliers locally.

Delivering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety training is integral in achieving patient safety for all Australians.

The training will be delivered to AHPRA staff, Accreditation Authorities, Agency Management Committee, and the National Boards of the 14 health professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and their Committees.

This is part of a broader commitment which aims to achieve equity in health outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Peoples and other Australians, to close the gap by 2031. The broader commitment as highlighted in AHPRA's National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Statement of Intent aims to achieve:

- a culturally safe health workforce supported by nationally consistent standards, codes and guidelines across all professions in the National Scheme
- using our leadership and influence to achieve reciprocal goals
- increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' participation in the registered health workforce
- greater access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to culturally safe services of health professions regulated under the National Scheme, and
- increased participation across all levels of the National Scheme.

Request for tender

The request for tender and contract of agreement are now available on [AHPRA's e-tendering portal](#). Applications close 5 October 2018, 5:00PM AEST.

Information session

An information session will be held for interested parties in Melbourne on Tuesday 4 September 2018 at 11:00AM AEST.

Those attending either by person or by Skype please email procurement@ahpra.gov.au to confirm attendance. A limit of two guests per supplier can attend in person.

For more information

For further information please contact Vanessa Morris at vanessa.morris@ahpra.gov.au

Consultation paper released – seeking your comments

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee has published a consultation paper on its draft revised accreditation standards.

Public consultation has commenced and will **close on 15 October 2018**.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine and Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committees (Accreditation Committees) are undertaking a joint review of their current accreditation standards. Accreditation standards are used to assess whether a program of study (and the education provider delivering the program) provide graduates with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise the profession competently and safely in Australia.

The consultation paper is available on the [Accreditation consultations page](#), and the Committee invites feedback from education providers, practitioners, other stakeholders and the community.

Please provide any written submissions by email to accreditationstandards.review@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on **15 October 2018**.

Submissions to this consultation may be published on the AHPRA website. There may be circumstances under which submissions may not be published. Published submissions will include the names of individuals and/or organisations that made the submission unless confidentiality is requested.

Are your contact details up to date?

It's important to make sure that your contact details registered with AHPRA are up to date so you don't miss reminders to renew or important information from the Board. 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 mail box.

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

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners on its [website](#). Practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme please refer to the information published on www.ahpra.gov.au. Alternatively, contact AHPRA using an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



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 or www.ahpra.gov.au.

Keep in touch with the Board

Call AHPRA on 1300 419 495 or 08 8901 8527 if you:

- have any questions
- need help filling in forms, or
- are having trouble explaining to your employer about requirements. You can ask your employer to call this number.

To contact the Board, please call Jill Humphreys on 03 8708 9066 or send an email to jill.humphreys@ahpra.gov.au.

Renee Owen

Chair

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

12 September 2018