

Paramedics Registration Project

Bulletin No 2 April 2016

Welcome

This bulletin provides an update on the Paramedics Registration Project (the project). It also details upcoming consultation and the key contact for the project.

At their 8 April meeting in Perth, Health Ministers discussed action to date to implement their decision of 6 November 2015, to include paramedics in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS or the National Scheme) for the health professions.

Ministers noted the development of a project plan that anticipates registration for paramedics commencing in late 2018.

Ministers also noted that targeted consultation with stakeholders is underway. This consultation will help shape the legislative amendments required to be prepared and passed by mid-2017, to include paramedics as the 15th profession regulated under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law).

Reference Group

A key part of the consultation has been the establishment of a Reference Group. On 4 April 2016, key national stakeholders attended an initial meeting with the project team in Melbourne to gain a more detailed understanding of the implementation process and to provide their views on the policy issues being worked through.

Participants in the Reference Group included nominees of the paramedic sector, ambulance services, and education providers including the following:

- Ambulance Employees Australia (AEA)
- Australia & New Zealand College of Paramedics (ANZCP)
- Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA)
- Joint Health Command, Department of Defence
- Network of Australasian Paramedic Academics (NAPA)
- National Council of Ambulance Unions (NCAU)
- Paramedics Australasia (PA)
- Private Paramedicine Australasia (PPA)
- Student Paramedics Australasia (SPA)

A representative of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) attended and the Consumer Health Forum (CHF) has also been invited to participate.

The Reference Group discussed some of the standard functions and powers of National Boards that are already in the National Law and are expected to apply to paramedics. Examples include powers to register

practitioners, accredit training programs and pathways through which Boards deal with notifications (complaints) about impairment, unsatisfactory professional performance or unprofessional conduct. Offences common to all Boards include use of titles that could reasonably be expected to induce a belief that a person is a member of a profession registered under the National Law. See further: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/What-We-Do.aspx>

Reference Group participants also discussed policy issues highlighted by Ministers that need to be resolved in order to ensure the participation of all jurisdictions in the national framework for paramedic registration. They include:

- Clear scope of paramedic workforce
- Implementation of the Review of the National Scheme
- Vocational and Tertiary pathways to registration.

Further questions canvassed included:

- What the name of the Board should be
- What titles should be protected
- The composition of the Board
- What grand-parenting arrangements should be made for to bring the existing paramedic workforce into the National Scheme
- Cross border practice

Where can I find further information?

In addition to this Bulletin and meetings of the Reference Group, the project team has agreed to attend and brief key stakeholder meetings. This will include a series of meetings with members across Australia organized by Paramedics Australasia.

The project team can also be contacted as below:

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Further bulletins updating the progress of this project will be released periodically.