

Paramedics Registration Project

Bulletin No 1 March 2016

Welcome

Welcome to the first bulletin on the implementation project for national registration of paramedics – the Paramedics Registration Project. This bulletin provides an overview of the project. It also details upcoming consultation and the key contact for the project.

Overview of the project

In November 2015, the Council of Australian Governments Health Council (CHC) agreed to include paramedics in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health practitioners (the National Scheme). Under the agreement only those jurisdictions that wish to register paramedics will apply the necessary amendments.

This project is being undertaken under the direction of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) which is made up of the heads of health departments of the states, territories and the Commonwealth. Responsibility for leading this project is being shared between the following parties:

- the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for leading policy work to settle the details of how the scheme will operate
- the Queensland Department of Health is responsible for preparing and enacting the necessary legislative changes to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law* (with Western Australia and South Australia also making legislative changes)
- the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency is responsible for implementing the administrative arrangements for national registration of paramedics once the necessary legislative changes are made.

What is the National Scheme?

The National Scheme commenced on 1 July 2010 with the introduction of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law in all Australian states and territories.

The objective of the National Scheme is to:

- protect the public by ensuring only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered
- facilitate workforce mobility across Australia by reducing the administrative burden for health practitioners wishing to move between participating jurisdictions or to practise in more than one participating jurisdiction
- facilitate provision of high-quality education and training of health practitioners

- facilitate rigorous and responsive assessment of overseas-trained health practitioners
- facilitate access to services provided by health practitioners in accordance with the public interest
- enable continuous development of a flexible, responsive and sustainable Australian health workforce including innovation in the education of, and service delivery by, health practitioners.

Currently 14 health professions are regulated by National Boards under the National Scheme supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). See further: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>

What work is needed to include paramedics in the National Scheme?

Before paramedics can be included in the National Scheme, work is needed to settle policy details and prepare legislative amendments to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

Anticipated timeframes for the project are as follows:

- policy details to be settled in 2016
- legislation to be prepared and passed by participating jurisdictions by mid-2017
- national registration of paramedics to commence in the second half of 2018.

What consultation will be carried out?

Targeted consultation on the project began in March 2016 with key organisations representing the paramedic sector, ambulance services, education providers and consumers.

This will build on the broader national consultation process undertaken in 2012 as part of the regulatory impact assessment process.

Where can I find further information?

For further information on this project, please contact:

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