

Communiqué

August 2014 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 last quarterly meeting was held on 29 August 2014 at the Melbourne Convention Centre in Melbourne. Quarterly meetings for the remainder of the 2014/15 financial year will be held in the months of November 2014, February 2015 and May 2015 in Melbourne.

News

Registration renewal

The registration renewal date for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners with general registration is 30 November. You can check your registration details and expiry date on the [national registers of practitioners](#).

Make sure your contact details provided to AHPRA, including email, are current as you will be sent reminders when your registration is due. Look for these reminders from AHPRA as confirmation that online renewal is open. After receiving your reminder, go to the [AHPRA login page](#).

If you do not renew your registration by 31 December (end of the one month late period), your registration will lapse in accordance with the National Law and your name will be removed from the national register.

If you wish to keep practising and do not renew registration by 31 December, you must submit a fast track application for registration. Fast track application forms are available on the Board website or by phoning the Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 during January.

If submitting a fast track application, you cannot practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

Read the latest news affecting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice profession on the [news page](#) of the Board's website.

Board decisions

Stakeholder relationship management strategy

The Boards discussed the level of engagement with its key stakeholders as per the agreed priorities in the Board's Stakeholder Relationship Management Strategy, approved at its April 2014 meeting.

30 June 2014 audited finance report

The Board noted the audited net result for 2013/14.

Amendments to the Board's Registration and Notification Committee Terms of Reference

The Board approved amendments to the terms of reference of its Registration and Notification Committee. These amendments facilitate the increase of Registration and Notification Committee members. At its June 2014 meeting, the Board agreed to disband its Communications Committee and. At this considered the first draft Health Profession Agreement with AHPRA and provided some feedback. Based on this feedback, an updated draft of the agreement will be considered at the Board's next meeting.

Accreditation Committee update

The Chair of the Board's Accreditation Committee and AHPRA's Accreditation Unit Program Manager delivered a presentation to the Board on the proposed Accreditation Committee work plan for 2014/15, previously submitted to the Board's 23 April 2014 meeting.

Practitioner audit update – criminal history check

The Board received an update on its audit of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners' declaration on their criminal history during the registration renewal process.

Discussion on the proportion of simulation in mandatory work placements

The Board discussed the findings published in an external report on the current level of simulated learning used in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care training. The Board is in the early stages of discussing what the evidence suggests about this important aspect of training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

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 August 2014 there were 355 registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in Australia.

ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	TOTAL
3	39	227	39	14	1	9	23	355

The overwhelming majority of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners are in the Northern Territory, with 227 registrants nominating the NT as their principal place of practice (PPP). This represents 64% of the profession.

Queensland and New South Wales jointly hosts the second largest registrant base for this profession, with 11% in each state. This is followed by Western Australia (6%) and South Australia (4%).

Peter PangQuee

Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

24 October 2014