

Communiqué

August 2012 meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (the Board) continues to progress the registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and setting up of the Accreditation Committee for the accreditation of relevant training courses and training providers.

Registration

The Board's registration and notifications committee approved four applications for registration at its August meeting.

AHPRA staff across the country are available and ready to assist practitioners who are applying for registration. Call our Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 for support and guidance.

Application forms for registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners are available on the Board's website at www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au.

Accreditation arrangements

The Board agreed to appoint three members to its new Accreditation Committee, as recommended by its selection committee. These appointments will be confirmed once probity checks have been completed. There is one practitioner member vacancy on the Accreditation Committee and the Board will invite practitioners to come forward for consideration for appointment to the remaining vacancy. Interested practitioners can contact the Executive Officer, Gilbert.Hennequin@ahpra.gov.au.

Other Board activities

The Board is represented on the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council's industry reference committee to review the qualification, *HLT43907 Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice)*, as part of CS&HISC's Changes to Packaging Rules of CHC08 and HLT07 Qualifications Project.

HWA has funded AHPRA on behalf of the Board to undertake a project on Registration Qualification Benchmarking. This project involved mapping the *HLT43907 Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice)* qualification followed by consultation with a range of key stakeholders. The outcome of this work is that two groups of workers would be suitable for 'up skilling' to enable them to be eligible to apply for registration with the Board.

The Board continues to promote newly regulated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner role at various forums, including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association Forum in Cairns on 28 August and the NSW Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Forum in Sydney on 29 August.

The Board Chair provided an update on the newly regulated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner role to the Health Workforce Principal Committee on 30 August. This committee provides advice on health workforce issues to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

General matters

The Board has confirmed its meeting schedule for the remainder of 2012 as 14 September, 18 October, 14 November and 12 December.

Further information about national registration and the registration requirements of the Board, including a series of frequently asked questions, is available on the Board's website www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au

Peter Pangquee
Chair
6 September 2012