

Communiqué

November 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 26 November 2014 at the AHPRA National office in Melbourne. Quarterly meetings for the remainder of the 2014/15 financial year will be held in the months of February 2015 in Melbourne and May 2015 in Darwin.

News

Registration renewal

The registration renewal date for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners with general registration is 30 November each year. 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

Late registration renewal fees waived for 2014

The Board agreed to waive the late registration renewal fee for 2014 for any registration renewal application made by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner after the registration period ends on 30 November 2014.

However, as mentioned above, if you do not renew your registration by 31 December (the end of the one month late period) and wish to keep practising, your registration will lapse in accordance with the National Law and your name will be removed from the national register.

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. Audits of criminal history and other registration standards are now business-as-usual for the Board. These audit checks are carried out on behalf of the Board by AHPRA.

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 September 2014 there were 356 registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners in Australia.

| ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | TOTAL |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| 3 | 40 | 225 | 39 | 15 | 1 | 9 | 24 | 356 |

The overwhelming majority of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners are in the Northern Territory, with 225 registrants nominating the NT as their principal place of practice (PPP). This represents 63% 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 (7%) and South Australia (4%).

Annual report

The 2014 Annual report of AHPRA and the National Boards reporting on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme has now been published.

The 2014 annual report is a comprehensive record of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2014. This year for the first time, local summaries of the work in regulating health practitioners in every state and territory have been published. These summaries and the 2014 annual report are published on the [AHPRA website](#).

Bruce Davis

Presiding Member, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

17 December 2014