

Communiqué

Fourth Meeting of the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia

27 October 2011

The fourth meeting of the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Tuesday, 18 October 2011 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) National office in Melbourne.

The Board is making good progress against its work plan.

As in previous meetings, the Board continued work to prepare for the commencement of national registration on 1 July 2012.

Stakeholder Feedback on draft registration standards

The Board was pleased to receive 54 submissions on its consultation paper, and thanks stakeholders for their interest and valuable contributions. Those submissions not marked confidential are available on the Board's website.

All feedback was considered by the Board as part of reviewing the draft registration standards. These standards are now being prepared for submission to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for their endorsement. It is anticipated that the Ministerial Council will consider the proposals in December 2011. This will enable the final registration standards to be published and the application for registration form to be made available early in 2012.

Additional standards, codes and guidelines

At the meeting, the Board considered developing for consultation, draft guidelines on mandatory notifications, which explain the requirements under the national law for health practitioners, employers and education providers to make compulsory notifications about health practitioners in certain circumstances. The Board also considered releasing for consultation, draft guidelines on the advertising of services provided by registered practitioners and a code of conduct for Medical Radiation Practitioners. The Board agreed to further develop this work over the coming month with a view to releasing draft guidelines for public consultation in November 2011.

The Board also intends to publish guidelines to support the proposed mandatory standards, again with a view to commence consultations in November 2011.

Communication strategy

The Board continues to follow its communication strategy, disseminating information about national registration to both registered and unregistered practitioners in all jurisdictions.

The Board is keen to ensure that all practitioners, particularly those in jurisdictions that do not have a registration scheme are aware of the National scheme and the commencement date of 1 July 2012. To receive the Board's monthly Communiqué and other regular updates on the progress towards national registration, email your contact details to mrpbaupdate@ahpra.gov.au

Accreditation arrangements

The Board looks forward to establishing a strong working relationship with its appointed accreditation provider the Australian Medical Radiation Sciences Accreditation Council (AMRSAC).

In the next phase of progression towards the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS), AMRSAC will be developing accreditation standards for endorsement by the Board as they relate to the

- development of standards
- assessment of programs of study and education providers
- assessment of overseas authorities
- assessment of overseas qualified practitioners
- making of recommendations and giving advice to the National Board.

Finance

Work on the Board's budget and the registration fees for 2012–2013 is progressing well and the fees will be provided to Health Ministers, to note, in December this year.

Commencement of national registration on 1 July 2012

In preparation for the requirement to be registered from 1 July 2012, it is important to note that practitioners currently fall into two groups, those who are currently registered in their local state or territory and those in NSW and SA who are not currently registered.

Practitioners who are registered with the existing State and Territory Boards on 30 June 2012 will automatically transition to the National Scheme and will not need to apply for registration. However when their registration expires, this group will need to renew their registration with the National Board. Note that for this group, where practitioners are currently registered with more than one state or territory - holding registrations with two different expiry dates, renewal of registration with the National Board needs to occur on the later of the two expiry dates.

NSW and SA practitioners who are **not currently registered** in any jurisdiction will need to apply for registration under the National Scheme. The application for registration forms currently being developed by AHPRA will be made available early in 2012. **It is important for these practitioners to remain up to date so that they are aware of the important dates for application lodgement in time for 1 July 2012.** Please email your contact details to mrpbupdate@ahpra.gov.au to receive future updates.

The application form will clearly state the fees associated with both the application and the registration process. The application fee will cover the administrative costs of processing a new application whilst the registration fee will support the operation of registration for the profession.

The Board acknowledged the continuing efforts of the various State and Territory Registration Boards and the NRAS 2012 Project team in preparing for the national registration of Medical Radiation Practitioners in 2012, and looks forward to continued joint effort in the coming months.

Neil Hicks

Chair

27 October 2011