



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Practice
Chinese Medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical Radiation Practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

14 June 2012

AHPRA ADVISORY NOTICE FOR EMPLOYERS

For employers of:

- Medical radiation practitioners (*including diagnostic radiographers, radiation therapists and nuclear medicine technologists*)
- Occupational Therapists
- Chinese medicine practitioners (*including acupuncturists, Chinese herbal dispensers and practitioners of Chinese herbal medicine and oriental medicine*)

As you will be aware, from 1 July 2012 practitioners in these professions join the health professions already regulated nationally under the National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This notice provides advice to employers about AHPRA's approach to enforcement of title protection for the four professions during the transitional period immediately following 1 July 2012. This advice will be reviewed on 30 September 2012. It covers:

- 1. Practitioners who have applied for registration but are yet to be registered on 1 July.**
- 2. Practitioners who have not yet applied for registration on 1 July.**
- 3. Practitioners who are registered with a local state or territory board and are transitioning into the National Scheme on 1 July.**

1. Practitioners who have applied for registration but are yet to be registered on 1 July

There has been a large number of new applications received after the requested due date of 30 March 2012. Many of these applications are complex in nature and it is likely that a number will be under assessment by AHPRA on 1 July.

During the transition period, if a practitioner has submitted an application in good faith, AHPRA will not take any action against them for practising while the application is being processed, providing they comply with all notices.

AHPRA will, on request, provide a statement that is evidence that their application is under assessment and that they may continue to practise.

2. Practitioners who have not yet applied for registration on 1 July.

From 1 July, practitioners who have not lodged an application, or who have not supplied additional information when requested, may be taken to be in breach of the National Law title protection provisions and penalties may apply.

In the first instance, practitioners are advised to submit an application before continuing to practise. Employers will need to determine what action they will take with a practitioner until they have submitted an application for registration.

AHPRA staff in each state will provide assistance to these practitioners to facilitate the submission of their application, and its lodgement, as quickly as possible.

3. Practitioners who are registered with a local state or territory board and are transitioning into the National Scheme on 1 July.

Practitioners who hold current registration with a local State or Territory Board on 30 June 2012 will automatically transfer across to the National Scheme. As a result of this transition they will hold national registration.

A practitioner's registration status can be checked on the public register maintained on AHPRA's website from 1 July - www.ahpra.gov.au.

If you have any questions or require further information about the National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme and your workplace, please call our Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495.