



Communiqué

November 2018 meeting of the Paramedicine Board of Australia

The Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law).

The Board meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders about the work of the Board. Please share it on to colleagues or employees who may be interested.

The Board held its 14th meeting at the AHPRA National Office in Melbourne on Monday 26 November 2018.

National regulation to start on 1 December 2018

1 December 2018 will be a milestone for the paramedicine profession in Australia. After many years of debate, deliberation and sustained effort, paramedics will be joining over 700,000 other registered health practitioners in a national regulatory scheme that has public safety at its heart.

While paramedics have always had the patient at the centre of everything they do – showing compassion, understanding and empathy to those they provide care – the past two decades have also seen the profession grow in complexity; paramedics are now working in a range of roles and environments, using sophisticated treatments and technology. The risks associated with this have driven the need for regulation so that the public is protected and so that they can be assured that any paramedic who provides care to them is suitably trained and qualified, and that their professional conduct and performance are properly regulated.

In addition to protecting the public, regulation acknowledges the critical role paramedics play in our health system and recognises paramedics, in their own right, as registered health professionals.

1 December 2018 also marks just over two years since the COAG Health Council announced its intention to regulate the paramedicine profession, with the inaugural National Board appointed in October 2017. The Board acknowledges the cooperation of all stakeholders in undertaking the huge volume of work to be able to begin regulation on 1 December 2018.

What happens after 1 December?

From 1 December 2018 paramedicine becomes a nationally regulated profession and the titles 'paramedic' and 'paramedicine' will become protected by law. This means that from 1 December 2018, only people who are registered with the Board or who have applied for registration before 1 December 2018 will be able to lawfully call themselves a paramedic.

The Board has received over 16,000 applications to date for registration and is able to continue receiving applications for registration from existing paramedics under the 'grandparenting' provisions until 30 November 2021.

Those who have made an application for registration as a paramedic before 1 December 2018 can continue to use the title 'paramedic' or otherwise hold themselves out to be a paramedic until their application is decided.

Those who have not applied for registration before 1 December 2018 are unable to use the title paramedic or otherwise hold themselves out as a paramedic until they have been granted registration by the Board.

There may be a limited period of exemption available for some people in specific circumstances. Those who are eligible for registration (i.e. hold a suitable qualification or can demonstrate a period of practice that meets the requirements for registration and also meet the suitability requirements for registration) may be eligible for this exemption. People who meet these requirements should make an application for registration as soon as possible and may continue to use the title and/or otherwise hold themselves out as a paramedic until 28 February 2019.

Those who make an application after 28 February 2019 cannot use the title paramedic or hold themselves out as a paramedic until they have been granted registration by the Board.

Paramedics can find out everything they need to know about applying for registration at www.paramedicineboard.gov.au.

Accreditation arrangements for paramedicine

The Board has been working to develop the necessary infrastructure to support the effective regulation of the paramedicine profession, including the accreditation function.

Earlier in 2018, the Board agreed to seek expressions of interest (EOI) from external entities to undertake the accreditation functions for the paramedicine profession and to consider responses to the EOI when making its decision to either establish a committee or use an external body for this function.

After considering a range of factors, including the National Board's options under the National Law, the Council of Australian Government's Health Council's decisions on next steps regarding the recently released Accreditation Systems Review final report, the timeframes and risks for performance of the accreditation functions in the first three years after commencement date and the responses to the call for EOI; the Board has decided the accreditation functions for the paramedicine profession will be exercised by a committee established by the Board for the next three years.

The Board wishes to thank the organisations that responded to the EOI. The Board will publish a call for applications for membership of the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee on its website in early December 2018.

Sign up for updates and keep informed

Sign up for [e-News updates](#) from the Board and AHPRA to stay in touch with upcoming events and receive the latest news about the implementation period for national regulation of paramedics.

The latest e-News update can also be found on the [Board's website](#).

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Associate Professor Stephen Gough ASM
Chair, Paramedicine Board of Australia