



## Communiqué

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### February/March 2019 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 16th meeting at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday 1 March 2019. This meeting was held to coincide with the biannual NRAS conference held at this venue.

#### **Applications not yet finalised – action required**

The Board noted that over 17,500 applications for registration as a paramedic have been received and more continue to arrive every day. So far around 15,000 paramedics have been registered and there are around 2,500 applications yet to be finalised.

Due to the provisions of section 85 in the National Law, in some cases AHPRA may need to seek approval to extend the time needed to process an application. This would be sent via a specific email. Practitioners who receive such an email, are requested to respond and confirm their agreement to the extension of time as soon as possible. Unfortunately, without approval to extend the time allowed to process the application, the National Law requires that the application is taken to be refused.

Should anyone be the recipient of an extension request email, or have already received one, please ensure that you provide this email along with your acceptance response to your employer as evidence of your application if required. When registration is granted, applicants will receive confirmation via email with their registration number which they will need to provide to their employer.

Again, thank you for your patience while we continue to process these applications

#### **Using the title 'paramedic'**

As of 1 March 2019, only registered paramedics or those who applied for paramedic registration before 1 December 2018 and their applications are not yet finalised can use the title 'paramedic' without breaching the provisions of the National Law.

Using the title 'paramedic' and creating a belief that you are registered when you are not is a criminal offence under the National Law and strong penalties apply. Recent changes to the National Law provide for fines of up to \$60,000 for an individual and \$120,000 for a corporate entity.

#### **Accreditation arrangements for paramedicine**

The Board received a significant number of high-quality applications for membership of the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee. The Board has now reviewed those applications and appointed seven members to this committee to undertake the paramedicine accreditation function under the National Law.

More information about the individuals appointed and the role of the committee will be published in the coming weeks.

## National Scheme news

### 'Let's talk about it' videos launched

AHPRA has [launched a series of new videos](#) to support the public and registered health practitioners as they go through the notification process.

The video series, called 'Let's talk about it', explains what happens when concerns are raised with the regulator, gives easy-to-follow information about the notifications process and addresses common questions, so consumers and health practitioners know what to expect when they interact with AHPRA and National Boards.

There are three videos:

- [A notification has been made about me](#) features five health practitioners who work within the National Scheme and is directed at health practitioners who have had a notification made about them.
- [I have a concern, am I in the right place?](#) is targeted at members of the public who have a concern but aren't yet sure whether AHPRA is the right place in which to raise it.
- [I have raised a concern with AHPRA](#) provides information for individuals who have just raised a concern with AHPRA.

The videos sit alongside other written resources available on our website, see: [www.ahpra.gov.au/Notifications](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Notifications).

You can view the videos on the AHPRA and National Board websites or from our [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#) channel, and join the conversation by following AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#): use the hashtag #letstalkaboutit and tag @AHPRA.

### Legislative amendments on mandatory reporting and fake practitioners

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (Qld) (the Bill) has been passed by the Queensland Parliament. The amendments include revisions to the mandatory reporting requirements for treating practitioners and an extension of sanctions for statutory offences.

The changes to the National Law intend to support registered practitioners to seek help for a health issue (including mental health issues). They will also increase the penalties (and the introduction of custodial sentences) for some offences under the National Law, including where a person holds themselves out to be a registered health practitioner when they are not.

AHPRA and National Boards will now work to implement these amendments. This will require working closely with professional bodies, employers and state and territory health departments to spread the message that practitioners should be supported to seek help about their health issues.

The passing of the Bill in Queensland marks the second set of legislative amendments to the National Law since the start of the National Scheme in 2010.

When they take effect, the amendments will apply in all states and territories except Western Australia, where the mandatory reporting requirements will not change.

Practitioners can read a news item about the amendments on the [AHPRA website](#) or the Bill on the [Queensland Legislation website](#).

### Keep in touch with the Board

- Visit the [Board's website](#) to keep informed.
- Lodge an [online enquiry form](#).
- For registration enquiries, call 1300 419 495 (from within Australia) or +61 3 9275 9009 (for overseas callers).
- Address mail correspondence to: Stephen Gough <sup>ASM</sup>, Chair, Paramedicine Board of Australia, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne, VIC 3001.

### Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



**Associate Professor Stephen Gough** ASM  
Chair, Paramedicine Board of Australia