



Communiqué

June 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 with colleagues or employees who may be interested.

The Board held its 20th meeting at the AHPRA National Office in Melbourne on 24 June 2019.

Paramedic registration

The Board continues to receive applications for registration and is working closely with AHPRA to finalise these applications in advance of the requirement for paramedics to renew their registration for the first time in December 2019. Extra resources have been assigned and review meetings are being held weekly to consider and finalise outstanding applications as quickly as possible.

The Board appreciates your patience and cooperation in working through these applications, particularly complicated ones, that often require follow up and additional documentation.

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.

Paramedic Capabilities

The Board will conduct a project to establish the ongoing professional capabilities for paramedics. Throughout the remainder of this year, the Board intends to commence a consultation and revision process on the currently approved interim professional capabilities for paramedics with a view to approving a final set of capabilities by early next year. The Board also hopes to align this process with the work of establishing accreditation standards for the paramedicine profession which will be undertaken separately by the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee.

Paramedic Scope of practice

The Board continues to receive enquires that relate to paramedic scope of practice. In response, the Board notes that the National Law is based on a title protection model and does not define scopes of practice for any of the professions regulated under the National Scheme. The National Law does include a

few restricted practices which were identified and included in the National Law following a formal regulatory impact analysis and it was accepted that there was a serious risk of harm from these practices that could not be adequately dealt with by other regulatory means provided in the National Law.

Under the National Law, scope is not specifically defined or described for the paramedicine profession. An individual practitioner's scope of practice is determined by their individual skills, training and competence in the work they do. It is an individual registered paramedic's ethical and professional responsibility to maintain recency in their scope of practice and ensure (and demonstrate if required) that they are suitably trained and competent to undertake whatever activities they do in their practice of the profession. Practitioners should be mindful of their professional obligations when changing or expanding their scope of practice.

The non-scope nature of the National Law provides opportunities for workforce flexibility and innovation in recognising that the actual breadth of paramedic practice is not limited and can encompass a wide variety of both clinical and non-clinical activities in a wide variety of roles and settings including advanced, expanded and emerging areas of paramedic practice.

Further information

The Board publishes a range of information for paramedics on its [website](#) and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on policies and guidelines affecting the paramedic profession.

For more information about registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Scheme, please refer to the information published on www.ahpra.gov.au. Alternatively, contact AHPRA by an [online enquiry form](#) or phone 1300 419 495.

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