



## Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project

### PROJECT UPDATE DECEMBER 2009

The implementation project has had a busy period since the last update report. This notice summarises the activities of the period. Many of these activities are reported elsewhere, including on the websites of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency ([www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)) and the websites of the national boards (links are on the AHPRA website). This will be the last project update on this website. This website will then close for new information and all information should be obtained through the AHPRA website.

#### **Legislation**

There have been major developments on the legislation front in the last six months. The Ministerial Council issued an exposure draft of the proposed national law. During a national consultation exercise, many suggestions for improvements were received and the draft national law substantially amended by the Ministerial Council as a result.

The national law has now been passed in Queensland and adopted in New South Wales and Victoria. The adopting legislation has also been introduced but not yet passed in Tasmania, ACT, and NT. Links to the relevant legislation can be found elsewhere on this website.

It is currently expected that, subject to the decisions of parliaments, the legislation will be passed in all jurisdictions in time for commencement day on 1 July 2010.

#### **National Boards**

In August 2009 the Ministerial Council announced the membership of the ten new national boards. The boards commenced work with their first meeting on 20 September 2009. The national boards have been working extremely hard to complete all the work necessary ahead of commencement day.

On 27 October the national boards released consultation papers on draft registration standards and related matters. This was in order to meet the consultation requirements set out in the legislation. The boards received around 400 submissions by the closing date of 24 November. At their December meetings the Boards are considering the comments they have received in order to provide final proposals to the Ministerial Council before Christmas.

The implementation team has been providing all the support required by the national boards in this interim period until Agency staff are recruited and take over their permanent roles in supporting the boards.

#### **Implementation arrangements**

While all this work has been going on policy, legislation and support for the boards, the team has also been very active in the practical aspects of implementation.

The registration system is well advanced and ready for functional testing in December. Work commenced in November on the data migration project which transfers information from the existing boards to the new national boards. A number of products have also been selected to support corporate services in the Agency.

The Agency itself is taking shape as staff recruitment proceeds. The Agency announced Martin Fletcher as its inaugural CEO on 18 September 2009. Martin commences on 21 December 2009. Supported by the project team, the Agency has also announced appointments to the eight State and Territory Manager positions and the two next most senior roles in the national office. The first national office senior staff member commenced work on 7 December 2009.

Considerable work has also been undertaken on accommodation options in each State and Territory in order to secure a single location for the Agency in each capital city. The first leases are likely to be signed in the December/January period.

This is the last update from the project team. In future all implementation updates will come from the Agency and will appear, usually as part of Agency Management Committee statements, on the AHPRA website. The implementation team in Melbourne will continue to underpin the implementation process through the Agency.

The project team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the current boards, in the professions and in community organisations and in government who has helped to make possible so much progress on the new arrangements and to ensure that the scheme will be up and running on 1 July 2010.

Louise Morauta  
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21 December 2009