



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

PROJECT UPDATE 30 JUNE 2009

The implementation of the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions continued in the final quarter of 2008-09, building on the work previously undertaken. At present the project is still on track for full implementation from 1 July 2010.

The main milestone in this quarter was the announcement by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 8 May 2009 of decisions taken on the design of the new arrangements. The full communiqué is on the project website. The decisions were taken in response to stakeholder feedback from the consultation process, undertaken between September and December 2008.

Key features of the decisions announced included:

- independence of the accreditation function
- changes to registers
- support for continuing professional development
- extension of the scheme to other professions
- the national office to be located in Melbourne
- the size and composition of the ten inaugural national boards, and
- additional improvements to quality and safety of health services (mandatory reporting, public interest assessment arrangements and student registration).

The Ministerial Council asked that these decisions be reflected in an exposure draft of the National Law which was to be available for a further round of public consultation.

Following the decisions of the Ministerial Council, public advertisements were released on 15 and 16 May 2009 calling for nominations and expressions of interest for practitioner and community members of the ten new national boards.

In April 2009, the Agency Management Committee held its first meeting and commenced a program of work to support the implementation of the new arrangements. The Agency has established its own website at www.ahpra.gov.au where it reports on its meetings, plans and other matters.

Following its decisions announced on 8 May, the Ministerial Council released the exposure draft of the National Law Bill on 12 June 2009 for a period of consultation. By 30 June a national forum on the draft Bill had been held in Canberra and State and Territory forums held in Sydney, Darwin, Adelaide and Canberra with approximately 430 people attending these five forums.

On 29 June 2009, the contract was awarded to Eclipse Pty Ltd for the supply of the new IT system to underpin the registration arrangements.

The project team can advise that of the funds allocated by governments to the implementation of the new arrangements \$4.9 million had been spent as of 30 June 2009. Expenditure in 2009-10 is expected to be considerably higher as the IT systems are put in place and implementation builds to commencement day on 1 July 2010.

Once again the project team would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by staff and members of existing boards and professional and community organisations to the design and implementation of the new scheme. The work could not be done without you.

Dr Louise Morauta
Project Director

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