

NATIONAL REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION SCHEME FOR MEDICAL RADIATION PRACTITIONERS (September 2011)

The first Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (National Board) has been appointed by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) and met for the first time on 26 July 2011.

Why the move to National Registration?

When registration for this profession starts on 1 July 2012, the new arrangements will mean that medical radiation practitioners, diagnostic radiographers, medical imaging technologists, radiographers, nuclear medicine scientists, nuclear medicine technologists and radiation therapists will hold national registration, pay one annual national registration fee, and have one registration renewal date. The national scheme will enable practitioners to move around the country more easily, reduce red tape, provide greater safeguards for the public and promote a more flexible, responsive and sustainable health workforce. For example, there will be one public national register that consumers and employers can use to check whether a practitioner is currently registered and if any conditions have been placed on that practitioner's registration.

How will this affect me?

In order to continue practising, from 1 July 2012, all medical radiation practitioners will need to ensure that they have national registration.

On 1 July 2012, medical radiation practitioners who hold current state or territory based registration will automatically transition into the national scheme and therefore will automatically hold national registration. At this time state and territory registration bodies will cease operation.

Medical radiation practitioners who are not currently expected to hold state or territory registration will be required to apply for registration with the National Board prior to 1 July 2012. These practitioners include those who work in South Australia, New South Wales and some practitioners from the Northern Territory.

Between now and 30 June 2012, state and territory based registration will remain a requirement for all medical radiation practitioners working in those states and territories.

What do I have to do?

- If you are currently registered in a state or territory, please maintain your registration and ensure your contact details are up-to-date. After you transition into the national scheme, you will need to renew your registration each year as you currently do. However the national registration renewal cycle will be from 1 December to 30 November the following year. Information regarding the renewal process will be sent to you when you are required to renew for the first time under the national scheme.
- If you are not currently expected to hold state or territory registration you will need to apply for registration with the National Board as early as possible. It is expected that practitioners will be able to apply for registration from February 2012 and that applications for registration will be available on the National Boards website at this time (<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Health-Professions.aspx>)
- Think about having your say on proposed registration standards when the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia consults with stakeholders over the coming months.

Are you a student?

National registration for students will commence from 1 July 2012. Individual students will not need to apply for registration. However, education providers are required to inform the National Board of all currently



enrolled students and let you know once you are registered. Students already registered in a state or territory will automatically transition into the national scheme with student registration. The student register is not published.

Have your say on the current consultation

The Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (the Board) has released a consultation paper on the proposed registration standards for:

1. Continuing professional development
2. Criminal history
3. English language skills
4. Professional indemnity insurance
5. Recency of practice

In addition, the Board is also consulting on a draft grandparenting and general registration eligibility registration standard.

The Board is interested in your comments about the proposed standards and invites written submissions on the draft standards. The paper was released for comment on 30 August 2011 and closes on 7 October 2011. The paper can be found at the following link: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/sitecore/content/Medical-Radiation/News/Consultations.aspx>

More information and updates:

For more information and to keep up to date with national registration for Medical Radiation Practitioners, visit the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia website accessible via the following link: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Health-Professions.aspx>

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is the organisation that supports the National Boards and will provide administrative support to the national board. The AHPRA website is at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>. Here you can access the current National Board websites for the 10 health professions and view the national register of practitioners.

Tell us your email address

If you would like to receive updates from the Board simply send your full name, email address and tell us whether or not you have current registration with a State or Territory Board to: mrpbaupdate@aphra.gov.au