



National Registration and
Accreditation Scheme

Outline...



- Overview of national scheme
- Role of National Boards
- Role of Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- Key features of the scheme
- Who does what

This is fundamental reform ...



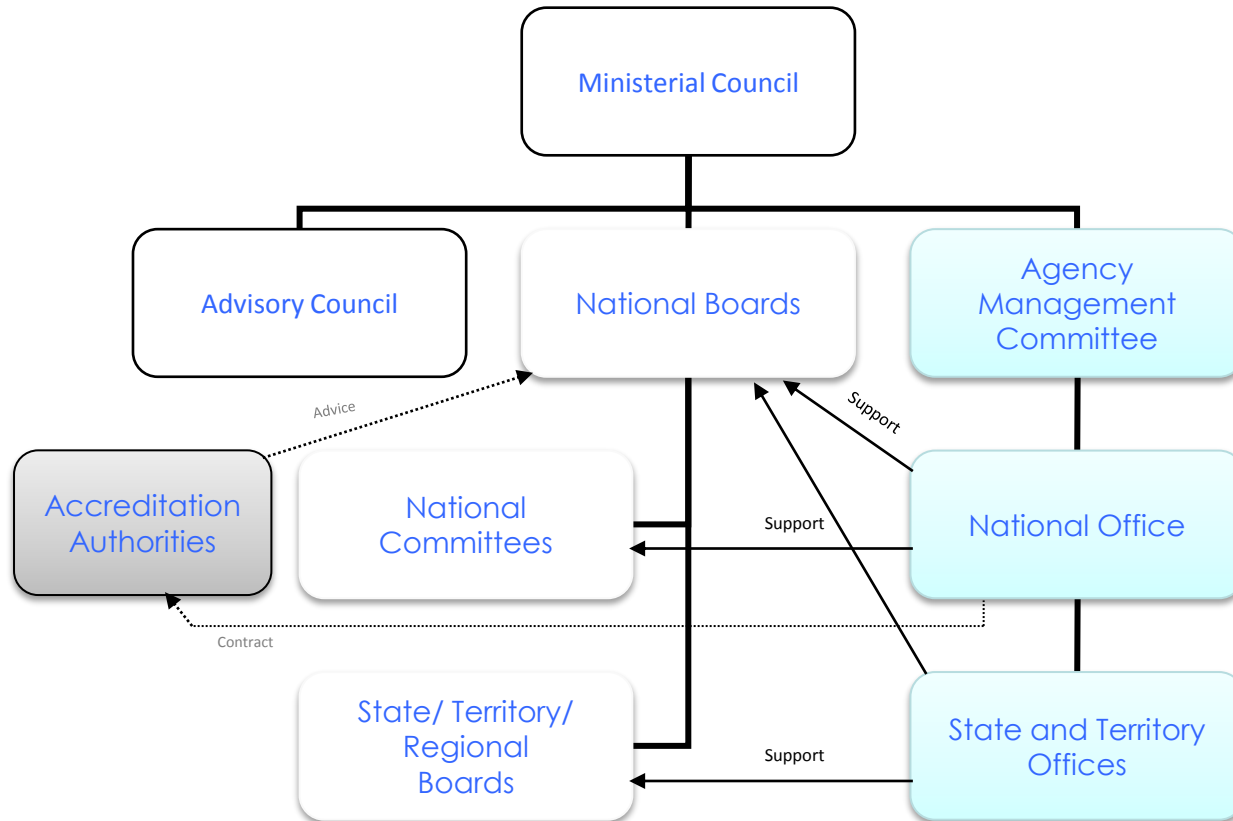
Before July 2010...

- Eight States and Territories
- >85 health profession boards
- 66 Acts of Parliament

Since July 2010 ...

- One national scheme
- 10 health profession boards
- Nationally consistent legislation

Structure...



Key features...



- National system for health practitioner regulation
- One National Law covering all health practitioners
- Ten National Boards to exercise regulatory functions
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to support Boards

Key features



- Mandatory continuing professional development
- Mandatory professional indemnity insurance
- Handling of notifications and complaints
- National registration fee for each profession
- Criminal history and identity checks
- Student registration
- New registration standards
 - continuing professional development
 - professional indemnity insurance
- National registers

Who does what...



National Boards:

- Set national standards, codes and guidelines for profession
- Determine requirements for registration and register health practitioners who meet the requirements
- Approve accredited programs of study
- Oversee assessment of overseas trained practitioners
- Oversee receipt and follow-up of notifications on health, performance and conduct
- Maintain registers (with Agency)

Who does what...



State/ Territory/ Regional Boards:

- Profession specific structures
- In general – make decisions on individual registrants (registration and notification), based on national board policy

AHPRA:

- Supporting Boards by managing registration, investigation/ notification and administrative

Health Professions

July 2010

- chiropractors
- dental care (including dentists, dental hygienists, dental prosthetists & dental therapists),
- medical practitioners
- nurses and midwives
- optometrists
- osteopaths
- pharmacists
- physiotherapists
- podiatrists
- psychologists

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- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
- Chinese medicine practitioners
- medical radiation practitioners
- occupational therapists

Rationale and Benefits...

- **Mobility:** Register once, practise across Australia
- **Consistency:** Consistent national standards in registration and professional conduct
- **Efficiency:** Less red tape - streamlined, effective
- **Collaboration:** Sharing, learning and understanding between professions
- **Transparency:** National online registers showing current conditions on practice (except health)
- **Strengthened protection:** increased public health safeguards building on the best

The Medical Board of Australia...



The role of the Medical Board of Australia is to **protect the public** by:

- registering medical practitioners and medical students
- developing standards, codes and guidelines for the medical profession
- investigating notifications and complaints
- where necessary, conducting panel hearings and referring serious matters to Tribunal hearings
- assessing International Medical Graduates who wish to practise in Australia (via Australian Medical Council)
- approving accreditation standards and accredited courses of study (via AMC)

Continuing professional development

- Now a mandatory requirement for *all* professions
- Practitioners will participate in at least 20 hours of CPD per year
- CPD must be relevant to the practitioner's context of practice
- Maintain own CPD records (written documentation) - for audit purposes

Mandatory notifications...



- Practitioners and employers must report a registrant who they believe has engaged in notifiable conduct (some exceptions)
- Belief must be formed through the practice of the profession
- Notifiable conduct:
 - drugs or alcohol
 - sexual misconduct in professional practice
 - public at risk of substantial harm - physical or mental impairment
 - public at risk of harm - substantial departure from accepted professional standards

English Language Skills



- All applicants must be able to demonstrate English language skills at IELTS academic level 7 or equivalent
- Evidence must be provided by
 - a) internationally qualified applicants, or
 - b) applicants who did not undertake and complete their secondary education in English and in one of the countries specified as exempt

Registration Standards & Codes / Guidelines...

- Both require wide-ranging consultation prior to approval
- Approved registration standards & codes / guidelines are statutory instruments
- Both can be used in proceedings as evidence of what constitutes appropriate professional conduct or practice

Codes and Guidelines ...



- Code or guideline - guidance on the expectations of the profession
- Common e.g. Advertising Guidelines and Codes of Professional Conduct
- Specific to MBA e.g. “Good Medical Practice”

Once more, why...



- Mobility: Register once, practise across Australia
- Uniformity: Consistent national standards – registration and professional conduct
- Efficiency: Less red tape - streamlined, effective
- Collaboration: Sharing, learning and understanding between professions

**Thank you for the
opportunity to
present to you
today**

Criminal History....



What is relevant? Boards take into account:

- Nature/severity
- Period elapsed
- Finding of guilt
- Sentence
- Age of practitioner and any victim
- Decriminalised
- Behaviour since
- Future threat
- Additional information