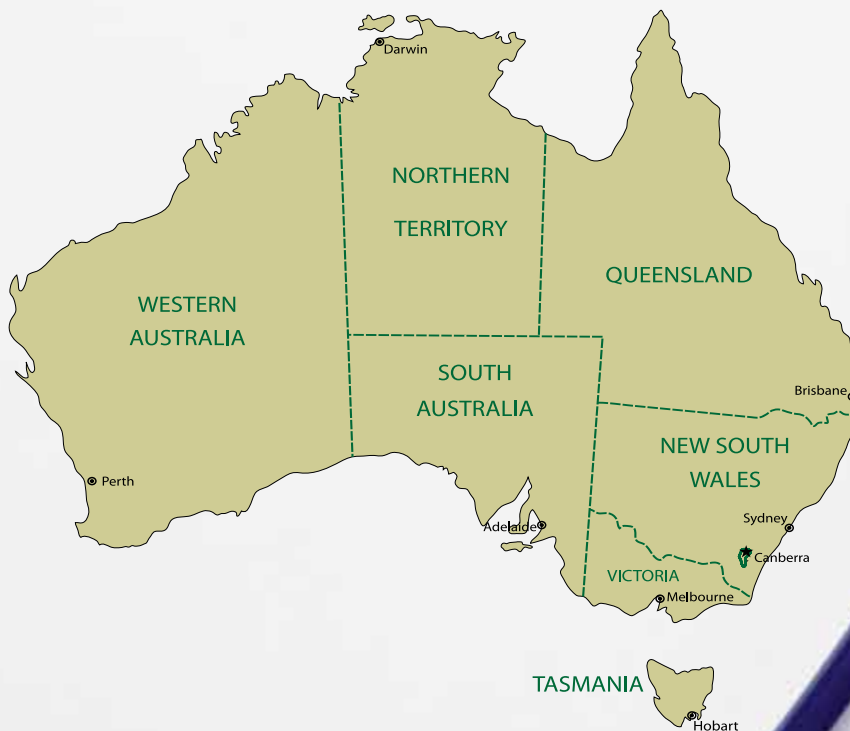


National registration deadlines imminent

Changes in place by 1 July 2010



To facilitate your transition from state to national registration, it is essential to read all information from the Medical Board, make changes as soon as possible, and renew your registration as soon as you receive your renewal notice.

National registration is now a reality for doctors and allied health professionals across Australia. It is apparent that the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme will involve some initial confusion. To facilitate your transition from state to national registration, it is essential to read all information from the Medical Board, make changes as soon as possible, and renew your registration as soon as you receive your renewal notice. AMA (NSW) members may also contact the AMA with any queries.

Below is a snapshot of the most significant changes. Doctors are advised to pay particular attention to medical indemnity requirements.

Retired doctors: In NSW doctors can currently be registered under a limited prescribing and referral classification. This category will no longer be available for doctors retiring after 1 July 2010. Doctors already registered under this classification will no longer be exempt from medical indemnity insurance. The AMA is still making submissions to retain this category and the insurance exemption.

This category allows doctors to write repeat prescriptions and referrals for patients, subject to the patient having a regular GP and having seen that GP within the last six months. The category recognises that the skills and wisdom of a life of clinical practice do not end with retirement and was established in response to strong lobbying by the AMA ten years ago. Currently, doctors registered in the limited prescribing and referral category are exempt from the requirement to hold professional indemnity insurance. However, doctors must undertake appropriate CME,

commensurate with their level of practice.

AMA (NSW), with the support of the NSW Health Minister, argued strongly to maintain the limited prescribing and referral category for those doctors who currently hold that registration. However, doctors who retire from practice after 1 July 2010 will not be entitled to access the limited prescribing and referral category and will either be required to maintain full registration or to move to the non-practising category.

The AMA at both a state and federal level has made further submissions to the Medical Board of Australia calling for the maintenance of the limited prescribing and referral category. We encourage members to write to the National Board and the NSW Health Minister in support of the AMA's campaign. Further information about the category and the AMA's submissions can be found at www.amansw.com.au.

AMA (NSW) has written to doctors who are currently retired to advise that the grandfathered arrangement has not preserved the exemption from holding professional indemnity insurance. We are also making submissions to the Medical Board of Australia and to the Minister to retain the indemnity insurance exemption. We will advise doctors further on developments in this regard.

Medical indemnity insurance is required for ALL registrations in the new national scheme (including allied health professionals). This change mainly affects the doctors grandfathered in the above category and practice nurses. All doctors are advised to contact a medical defence organisation of their choosing

to obtain details of coverage available or to confirm what their contract currently covers.

The cost of registration has increased considerably. The AMA has made extensive representations to the new Medical Board of Australia and Federal Government and will continue to do so into the future. NSW doctors will receive a rebate on the cost of national registration as the NSW complaints procedures are to be retained.

Urgent! Mid-year registrations for incoming interns (through Australian universities or the AMC exam process) need to be submitted to the NSW Medical Board as a matter of urgency as the Medical Board will be transitioning at the end of June and will not be able to process any applications or changes during this time.

FYI

For more essential information on national registration see the web site of the New South Wales Medical Board, nswmb.org.au

