

New national registration arrangements

New arrangements for national registration with the Medical Board of Australia will begin on 1 July 2010.

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions introduces new national arrangements for:

- registration of medical practitioners;
- accreditation of medical education and training; and
- complaints and disciplinary processes.

Legislation for the national Scheme (the National Law) has been passed in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, the ACT and the NT. National Law has not been passed in SA, WA or Tasmania.

The AMA has always supported the principle of nationally consistent registration arrangements that ensure qualified and safe doctors can work anywhere in Australia. Throughout the consultation process conducted over the past three years the AMA made clear its broad and specific objections to many elements of the Scheme. We have devoted considerable effort to ensure the framework minimises political interference on professional standards.

More recently we have worked and will continue to work with the Medical Board of Australia to get details of registration, complaints and disciplinary processes right.

Transition to national registration

All registered medical practitioners will need to transition to registration with the Medical Board of Australia.

To ensure smooth transition it is very important you ensure you are currently registered with the medical board in the state or territory in which you practice. It

is also important you check your contact details and mailing address are correct.

Confirm your registration details for the new Scheme

You should have received a letter from the Medical Board of Australia listing your registration details as currently recorded and your proposed registration type that will apply after 1 July 2010. The letter gives details of your obligations under National Law and the fee that will apply when your current registration period expires and you renew with the national Scheme.

It is essential that you take the time to check the accuracy of the information in the letter and promptly provide feedback to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) if something is not correct. The feedback form needs to go back to AHPRA if corrections are required.

Doctors registered in multiple jurisdictions may receive more than one letter, although the AMA is advised that data cleansing and de-duplication work is being undertaken to reduce the likelihood of this. Doctors registered on 30 June 2010 in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, the ACT and the NT will be automatically registered in the national Scheme until the end date of their current registration.

Doctors registered in SA, WA and Tasmania should also have received the letter and should provide the feedback form to AHPRA if details are not correct. This ensures that if and when Parliaments in those jurisdictions

pass relevant legislation, those doctors can be immediately transferred onto the national register. Details of these registrants will not be published on the national public register until respective legislation is passed.

Annual renewal

Annual registration renewal for doctors with general registration with the Medical Board of Australia will be 30 September 2010 regardless of the state or territory in which you practice.

Renewals due before 30 June 2010

If you are due to renew your registration between now and 30 June 2010 you should do so with your state board. You should renew your registration sooner rather than later.

Registration under the new Scheme will be valid until the end of your registration period. The next time you renew in 2011 it will be with the Medical Board of Australia and for a period that brings you in-line with the 30 September registration renewal date for all medical practitioners.

Different renewal timelines apply to international medical graduates with conditional or limited registration and interns.

Further information is available on the Medical Board of Australia website, www.ahpra.gov.au or at www.medicalboard.gov.au. For questions about transition to the new Scheme contact the Medical Board in your state or territory.