Overview of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Practitioners

Chris Robertson
IHWC May, 2015
Long and Proud History

- 1837 – regulation of medical practitioners in Van Diemens Land (Tasmania)
- Predates UK by 21 years
- States have power to register/-regulate - not Commonwealth
- History of piecemeal changes
- Major transformation in past 5 years

Former Tasmanian Medical Council
Patient safety and workforce driving reform
A major transformation since 2010

- Eight State and Territory based arrangements
- >95 health profession boards
- 75 Acts of Parliament
- 38 regulatory organisations
- 1.5 million data items from 94 sources

- One national scheme
- 14 health profession boards
- Nationally consistent legislation (largely)
- One national organisation (AHPRA)
- National on line registers

www.ahpra.gov.au
structures and governance

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council
(8 State/Territory Ministers + Commonwealth)

Queensland
New South Wales
Victoria
Western Australia
Commonwealth
Northern Territory
South Australia
Tasmania
ACT

National Boards (x 14)
- Aboriginal & TSI Health Practitioners
- Dental Practitioners
- Nurses & Midwives
- Osteopaths
- Podiatrists
- Chinese Medicine Practitioners
- Medical Practitioners
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Psychologists
- Chiropractors
- Medical Radiation Practitioners
- Optometrists
- Pharmacists

State/Territory and Regional Boards (x 21)
* some professions have established state/territory and/or regional boards to which they have delegated powers

Medical Practitioners (QLD, VIC, NSW, SA, WA, TAS, NT, ACT)
Physiotherapists (VIC only)
Psychologists (NSW, QLD + 2 Regional Boards)
Nurses & Midwives (QLD, VIC, NSW, SA, WA, TAS, NT, ACT)

State and Territory Boards (x101)
Where established, members of State and Territory Boards are appointed by the State or Territory Minister (e.g. Medical Boards)
State and Territory Boards operate under delegated decision-making powers from National Boards

Accreditation Authorities (x14)
- Aboriginal & TSI Health Practitioners
- Dental Practitioners
- Nurses & Midwives
- Osteopaths
- Podiatrists
- Chinese Medicine Practitioners
- Medical Practitioners
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Psychologists
- Chiropractors
- Medical Radiation Practitioners
- Optometrists
- Pharmacists

Agency Management Committee
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

While having no formal governance role, a Forum of all National Board Chairs meets regularly to discuss National Scheme issues

Each National Board is responsible for setting practitioner registration fees, which are used to fund the operation of the National Scheme, including AHPRA

Sources: AHPRA Annual Report (2012-13) and COAG Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions (2008).
623,000 registered health practitioners in Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>NT</th>
<th>QLD</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>TAS</th>
<th>VIC</th>
<th>WA</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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<td>828</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1,310</td>
<td>604</td>
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<tr>
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<td>400</td>
<td>6,502</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>4,223</td>
<td>1,810</td>
<td>369</td>
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<td>2,500</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>21,143</td>
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<td>31,100</td>
<td>1,064</td>
<td>18,992</td>
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<td>24,114</td>
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<td>5,025</td>
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<td>756</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>590</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>328</td>
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<td>89,958</td>
<td>3,649</td>
<td>62,562</td>
<td>30,214</td>
<td>7,876</td>
<td>86,849</td>
<td>33,639</td>
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<td>328,121</td>
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<td>9,117</td>
<td>520</td>
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<td>2,189</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>7,825</td>
<td>2,997</td>
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<td>30,199</td>
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<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>4,789</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>3,318</td>
<td>1,363</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>4,154</td>
<td>2,522</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>1,258</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>4,902</td>
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<td>Osteopathy</td>
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<td>553</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1,983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
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<td>8,843</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>5,689</td>
<td>2,061</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>7,195</td>
<td>3,106</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>28,883</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
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<td>7,780</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>5,090</td>
<td>2,241</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>3,369</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>27,278</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,109</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,392</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>4,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>10,638</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>5,627</td>
<td>1,582</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>8,665</td>
<td>3,373</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>31,982</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10,679</td>
<td>181,270</td>
<td>6,619</td>
<td>118,707</td>
<td>51,820</td>
<td>13,643</td>
<td>161,304</td>
<td>64,765</td>
<td>14,504</td>
<td>623,311</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The number of registered health practitioners in Australia is growing.


2012 professions join.
More practitioners in all professions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Increase (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners</td>
<td>14.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese medicine practitioners</td>
<td>4.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiropractors</td>
<td>4.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental practitioners</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical practitioners</td>
<td>3.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical radiation practitioners</td>
<td>3.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses and midwives</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational therapists</td>
<td>7.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optometrists</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopaths</td>
<td>5.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
<td>3.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapists</td>
<td>5.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiatrists</td>
<td>6.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologists</td>
<td>3.78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More practitioners in all states and territories

Table R2: Registered practitioners by state, three-year trend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>NT</th>
<th>QLD</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>TAS</th>
<th>VIC</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>No PPP</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total 2013/14</td>
<td>10,723</td>
<td>181,025</td>
<td>6,650</td>
<td>117,622</td>
<td>51,352</td>
<td>13,572</td>
<td>160,286</td>
<td>64,015</td>
<td>14,264</td>
<td>619,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2012/13²</td>
<td>10,365</td>
<td>172,556</td>
<td>6,354</td>
<td>113,197</td>
<td>49,857</td>
<td>13,176</td>
<td>153,774</td>
<td>62,057</td>
<td>11,134</td>
<td>592,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2011/12</td>
<td>9,601</td>
<td>160,545</td>
<td>5,581</td>
<td>103,730</td>
<td>46,397</td>
<td>12,489</td>
<td>143,643</td>
<td>55,729</td>
<td>10,813</td>
<td>548,528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Data are based on registered practitioners as at 30 June 2014.
2. Regulation of four new professions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, Chinese medicine practitioners, medical radiation and occupational therapy practitioners, started on 1 July 2012.
### Students: which professions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Approved program of study by expected completion date</th>
<th>Clinical training by expected completion date</th>
<th>Total 2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Medicine Practitioner</td>
<td>1,549</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiropractor</td>
<td>1,105</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>1,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Practitioner</td>
<td>4,087</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Practitioner</td>
<td>19,301</td>
<td>1,261</td>
<td>20,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Radiation Practitioner</td>
<td>3,021</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>3,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwife</td>
<td>3,879</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>64,175</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>64,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapist</td>
<td>5,311</td>
<td>1,347</td>
<td>6,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optometrist</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>1,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopath</td>
<td>1,093</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>1,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacist</td>
<td>7,512</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>7,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapist</td>
<td>6,313</td>
<td>2,326</td>
<td>8,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podiatrist</td>
<td>1,628</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>1,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>120,459</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,884</strong></td>
<td><strong>128,343</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regulatory and workforce data play a vital role in the wider health system

• Key data that enables workforce planning and forecasting:
  – National Health Workforce Survey - linked to registration renewal (95% + uptake)
  – Partnership with Department and AIHW
  – Data to health workforce agencies including State/Territory Health Departments

• Enabler of wider reforms
  – Department of Human Services (Medicare) Practitioner Directory Service
  – Health Identifier Service -> (PCEHR) service

• Improving patient safety and efficiency
  – State and territory health departments and employers (Practitioner Information Exchange)
  – Collaborative projects – Linkage Projects, Grants, Partnerships (NHMRC Partnership Grant with University of Melbourne and University of Sydney)
  – Meeting data requests from a range of agencies, institutions and researchers
The National Registers provide one stop information for the community on every registered practitioner.

Mr Paul John Shinkfield
Profession: Physiotherapist
Registration number: PHY0001411824
Status: Registered
Registration expiry date: 30/11/2015
Principal place of practice: Hobart
TAS 7000
Registration Type: General

Mr Domenic Greco
Psychologist
Previous registration number: PSY0001119861
Registration status: Cancelled
Cancellation date: 19/01/2015
Previous principal place of practice: FITZROY
VIC 3065
Record of decision: View details
Cancelled Health Practitioners

Cancelled Health Practitioners - MED0000971405

Yusuf Bhamjee

Profession: Medical Practitioner

Previous registration number: MED0000971405

Cancellation date: 30/09/2011  Duration: 5 years

Previous principal place of practice: Biggera Waters, QLD

Conduct or matter:

Dr Bhamjee qualified as a doctor in South Africa and was first registered to practise in Queensland in 2006. The relevant conduct falls into two categories:

1. unprofessional conduct in diagnosis and treatment and patients’ conditions and management of their care
2. inappropriate and excessive prescription of restricted medications and breaches of prescribing requirements.

Findings:

The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal found that:

1. Dr Bhamjee failed to properly diagnose some patients’ conditions and, for others, he did not adequately investigate and appropriately treat their conditions. This was aggravated by his failure to keep clinical records, or if records were kept, they did not reveal a proper basis for his clinical decisions. This conduct involved 16 patients.
2. Dr Bhamjee’s inappropriate prescribing of medication also involved 16 patients. For seven patients the medication involved narcotics and, for another nine patients, the drugs involved anabolic steroids and testosterone medications. In addition, some of the patients that were being provided this medication were known to be drug dependent or seeking the medication for non-therapeutic purposes, such as body building.
Achievements

**Issues**

1. Remove barriers to mobility of health professions
2. Reduce inconsistencies in registration requirements
3. Enhance workforce flexibility and sustainability
4. Restrictive scopes of practice
5. Strengthen public protection and patient safety
6. Accreditation models highly variable and without consistent/clear legislative base
7. Improve workforce data

**National Scheme**

1. Single registration allows practice Australia wide
2. Nationally consistent registration types and uniform standards
3. Workforce objectives in National Law
4. Title protection model with very limited practice restrictions
5. New requirements and higher bar
6. “Independent” accreditation model exercised under legislation
7. Nationally consistent data on regulated professions