



Ms Christine McDonald
Secretary
Standing Committee on Finance And Public Administration
References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

20 May 2011

Dear Ms McDonald

Questions on notice

AHPRA is pleased to provide the following responses to the questions on notice from Committee members on 5 May 2011.

The total number of lapsed practitioners and what proportion of those were notified to Medicare

The total number of lapsed practitioners is set out in the AHPRA submission at paragraph 57 (page 18).

The Medicare Australia data will always be a subset of the AHPRA data, as only a subset of practitioners' whose registration has lapsed will have Medicare entitlements.

How does the extent of problems arising in relation to the national registration and accreditation scheme compare to previous state and territory health practitioner regulation schemes (referring to evidence by RACGP and Australian Private Midwives Association)?

It is not possible to directly compare the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme with the health practitioner registration schemes that existed in states and territories before 1 July 2010, because key features are different. These differences are summarised in the AHPRA Submission (Table One, page 7)

There are no externally agreed performance benchmarks for registration processes beyond the maximum timeframes specified in the National Law. During this next phase of implementation, AHPRA will seek to agree with the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council and National Boards a broader range of performance measures for the operation of the National Scheme.

Please provide an outline of communications and any meetings that Peter Allen, Martin Fletcher and AHPRA had with Ministerial Council or individual Ministers

An outline of communications with the Ministerial Council is attached.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

G.P.O. Box 9958 | Melbourne VIC 3001 | www.ahpra.gov.au

What involvement and communication have AHPRA and the Agency Management Committee had in the Australian Health Workforce Ministers' Council (AHWMC) communiqué and the issue of ex gratia and act of grace payments?

AHPRA and the Agency Management Committee were not involved in developing the AHWMC communiqué and have not been involved in the issue of ex-gratia and act of grace payments.

When was the former Chief Financial Officer's employment terminated and when did the legal action against AHPRA commence?

The former Chief Financial Officer's (CFO) employment was terminated on 2 December 2010.

The former CFO lodged an application with Fair Work Australia on 14 December 2010.

Is this the only legal action against AHPRA?

There is a single staff transitional issue being dealt with by a State industrial jurisdiction.

Please contact the CEO, Martin Fletcher, at
queries.

if you have further

Yours sincerely,

Peter Allen

Chair
Agency Management Committee

Outline of communications and meetings with Ministerial Council or individual Ministers

Ministerial Council

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) is comprised of the Minister with portfolio responsibility for health from each State and Territory and the Commonwealth. AHPRA's communication with Ministerial Council is guided by the requirements of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each jurisdiction –

- providing advice in connection with the administration of the national registration and accreditation scheme; and
- if asked by the Ministerial Council, giving assistance or information reasonably required by the Ministerial Council in connection with the national registration and accreditation scheme.

AHPRA is not a jurisdictional department (ie a State or Territory or Commonwealth Health Department), hence does not send representatives to attend Ministerial Council meetings. However, Mr Peter Allen as Chair of the Agency Management Committee, or Mr Martin Fletcher as CEO, may be asked on occasion, to provide information to assist the Ministerial Council.

Date	Outline of communications/meetings
30 September 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Mr Peter Allen, Chair, Agency Management Committee to the Chair, Ministerial Council, submitting the annual report for AHPRA for the reporting period up to 30 June 2010. • Subsequently, as required by the National Law, individual Health Ministers made arrangements to table the annual report in their respective State, Territory and Federal Parliaments.
18 January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Mr Peter Allen, Chair, Agency Management Committee to the Chair, Ministerial Council, advising of the AHPRA fee setting policy as endorsed by the National Boards.
18 January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Professor Genevieve Gray, Agency Management Committee member and Chair of the Oversight Group, to the Chair, Ministerial Council, providing an Interim Report about the progress of the restructure of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) – the external accreditation authority for the nursing and midwifery professions.
14 February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from Mr Peter Allen, Chair Agency Management Committee to Chair, Ministerial Council providing an update on the implementation of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, including immediate and scheduled action underway to address transitional issues.
17 February 2011 AHWMC meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministerial Council released a public communiqué (available on the AHMAC website) acknowledging the implementation update from AHPRA and agreeing that action needed to be taken to address concerns around access and registration processes and to restore professional confidence in the new National Scheme. Ministers agreed to provide additional support and expertise to assist AHPRA and endorsed a fast tracking process for health practitioners whose registration had lapsed and for enhancements of the online applications and tracking process. Ministers also agreed that AHPRA would provide regular reports to the Ministerial Council and the Chair, AHWMC will commence frequent discussions with AHPRA management to ensure registration processes are on track. • The Ministerial Council also noted the AHPRA fee setting policy and the Interim Report of the Oversight Group about the restructured ANMAC.

Individual Health Ministers

Communication with the responsible Minister in each State and Territory occurs as required and primarily involves the relevant State or Territory Manager for AHPRA and issues of relevance to the specific jurisdiction.