

Is your health profession covered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency?

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The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) took effect from 1 July 2010. The national registration enables health practitioners to practice throughout Australia without having to register in each State or Territory. Registration renewal will only be required once a year. All States and Territories joined the national scheme with the exception of Western Australia which is expected to join in late 2010.

The National Scheme covers 10 health professions, namely: Chiropractor, Dentist, Medical Practitioner, Nursing and Midwifery, Optometrist, Osteopath, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Podiatrist, Psychologist.

If you are a health professional, covered the by the Scheme, apply for registration as a health professional with the relevant National Registration Board of your profession in Australia, through AHPRA at its website, <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>.

To be eligible for registration, you must satisfy the national standards for criminal history checks, English language skills, continuing professional development, professional indemnity insurance arrangements, recent relevant practice or work experience, and the specific skills competency requirements of the National Board of your particular occupation.

The Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) was created to enforce the scheme and to provide a single point of contact for health practitioners, students and the public. AHPRA has national office based in Melbourne and offices in each state and territory. Registrations and complaints are handled within the relevant state and territory office of AHPRA.

AHPRA provides administrative support to the National Boards of each profession. The National Boards are not allowed to enter into contracts and employ staff and therefore need to delegate the handling of operational registration and complaints under their supervision, to Committees, AHPRA staff and contractors.

Other bodies created under the Scheme are:

- Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council
- Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council
- Australian National Boards for each profession
- Committees of national boards (former State/Territory Boards)
- Accreditation authorities for each profession

This information is of a general nature and should not be taken as authoritative legal advice for specific cases. Australia has a scheme that requires persons who give immigration assistance to be registered as migration agent. The writer, Atty. Imelda Argel is a practising Filipino migration solicitor and a registered migration agent in Sydney, Australia. She is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of Australia, an Attorney at law in the Philippines and in the State of New York, USA. Her Registered Migration Agent no. is 9682957. She is also the recipient of the inaugural NSW FAWAA (Filipino- Australian Women's Achievement Award) for her outstanding achievements in corporate practice and entrepreneurship.. More information is available at www.iargel.com.au. You can contact the author by email at info@iargel.com.au or by fax at (+612) 9699 3210 or by appointment at Suite 41, Ground Floor, 61-89 Buckingham St. SURRY HILLS NSW 2010.

