

# Paramedics Registration Project

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### Update

This update on the Paramedics Registration Project (the project) provides exciting news. At their 7 October meeting, Health Ministers reached agreement on the policy issues that needed resolution in order to prepare legislative changes to implement national registration of paramedics.

The policy decisions Ministers have made will shape the legislative amendments required to include paramedics in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS or the National Scheme) for the health professions.

This decision means that the project is on track to achieve registration for paramedics commencing in late 2018. The next step is for the legislative amendments to be drafted and approved by Ministers for passage along with a broader package of reforms to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law). Targeted consultation with stakeholders on details of the proposed changes is scheduled to occur in early February 2017.

This consultation will help with preparation of the legislative amendments required with a Bill expected to be introduced to the Queensland Parliament by mid-2017. Separate legislation will be introduced into the Western Australian Parliament and the process in South Australia will require amendment of regulations. Once the Bill has passed the Queensland Parliament it is automatically adopted in all other jurisdictions.

Following passage of the legislation, paramedicine will become the 15<sup>th</sup> profession to be regulated under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law).

### Consultation

A key part of the targeted consultation will involve the National Stakeholder Reference Group established to advise the project. Participants in the Reference Group includes a broad range of national paramedicine stakeholders including the following:

- Ambulance Employees Australia (AEA)
- Australia & New Zealand College of Paramedics (ANZCP)
- Consumer Health Forum (CHF).
- Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA)
- Joint Health Command, Department of Defence
- Network of Australasian Paramedic Academics (NAPA)

- National Council of Ambulance Unions (NCAU)
- Paramedics Australasia (PA)
- Private Paramedicine Australasia (PPA)
- St John Ambulance (SJA)
- Student Paramedics Australasia (SPA)

Representatives of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Health Professional Councils Authority will also attend. State or Territory level meetings with local stakeholders may also be held on an as needs basis.

### Establishing a National Board

Once legislation is in place AHPRA will begin putting in place the administrative arrangements necessary to support registration of paramedics.

This will include recruiting and establishing a National Paramedicine Board of Australia, whose members will be appointed by all Health Ministers (sitting as the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council). AHPRA will also support the Board in the consultations with the field necessary to develop registration standards for approval by Ministers along with other codes and guidance that may be required for regulation of the profession.

Registration is expected to commence in late 2018. The Board may seek and consider applications from existing practitioners and new entrants to the profession prior to commencement date. A major task for the Board will be to assess the eligibility for 'grand-parenting' of the 13,000 or more practitioners who make up the existing paramedic workforce.

### Where can I find further information?

For more background on the rationale for registration of this profession you can access the *Final report - Options for Regulation of Paramedics September 2015* on the COAG Health Council website [here](http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Portals/0/Paramedic%20Decision%20RIS.pdf) (insert hyperlink: <http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Portals/0/Paramedic%20Decision%20RIS.pdf>.)

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