



Standing Council on Health

Communique

1 August 2013

Regulation of Unregistered Health Practitioners

At its recent Standing Council on Health face to face meeting, Ministers considered the *Decision Regulatory Impact Assessment: Options for regulation of unregistered health practitioners*.

Ministers agreed in principle to strengthen state and territory health complaints mechanisms via:

- a single national Code of Conduct for unregistered health practitioners to be made by regulation in each state and territory, and statutory powers to enforce the Code by investigating breaches and issuing prohibition orders;
- a nationally accessible web based register of prohibition orders; and
- mutual recognition of state and territory issued prohibition orders.

Under the proposed arrangements, each State and Territory will be responsible for:

- enacting new (or amending existing) legislation and regulations to give effect to the national Code of Conduct, the national register of prohibition orders, and mutual recognition of prohibition orders across state boundaries;
- determining a suitable local body to receive and investigate breaches of the Code of Conduct and issue prohibition orders, noting that existing Health Complaints Entities (HCEs) already have statutory roles to investigate complaints about unregistered health practitioners but only NSW and South Australia have a code of conduct and prohibition order powers.

To give effect to these decisions, Ministers have asked the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) to undertake a public consultation on the terms of the first national Code of Conduct and proposed policy parameters to underpin nationally consistent implementation of the Code, for consideration by Ministers.

A copy of the *Final report - Options for regulation of unregistered health practitioners* is available at www.ahmac.gov.au

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