

Registration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners

Peter Pangquee

Chair

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

Sydney May 6th 2014



Contents

- Background to National Registration
- Why be part of a regulated workforce?
- Who should register?
- How to register
- Registrants' responsibilities
- What we have done along the way so far?
- Facts about the Board and AHPRA
- Where to get more information
- Questions and answers

Background to National Registration

- National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) was established by a National Law, in force in each state and territory, on 1 July 2010, with the 10 health professions already regulated in each state and territory
- This profession and three other ‘partially regulated’ professions joined the National Scheme on 1 July 2012
- In July 2011, this Board was appointed by Health Ministers (the Ministerial Council) to prepare for national registration within 12 months

Background to National Registration

- When deciding which new professions would join the National Scheme, the Ministerial Council used criteria based on which roles could place the public at substantial risk of harm
- When considering the inclusion of AHWs, the Ministerial Council decided that **only AHWs in clinical roles** significantly met the criteria
- the Ministerial Council was reluctant to include AHWs other than those in clinical roles
- A new title was chosen and protected for a new nationally regulated profession

Background to National Registration

- Once established, concerns arose that this new profession would not have sufficient numbers to be viable in a self-funded National Scheme
- The Ministerial Council asked the Board to undertake consultation on whether non-clinical AHWs should be regulated and included in the National Scheme
- Feedback from stakeholders in that consultation confirmed that the Board's existing focus on ATSIHPs (i.e. AHWs in clinical roles) was appropriate.

Background to National Registration

- The Board's functions are to:
 - register qualified and competent applicants, and if necessary, impose conditions,
 - develop **registration** standards for Ministerial Council approval,
 - develop and approve codes and guidelines,
 - approve **accreditation** standards and accredited programs of study,
 - oversee assessment and investigation of **notifications** (i.e. complaints) about registrants

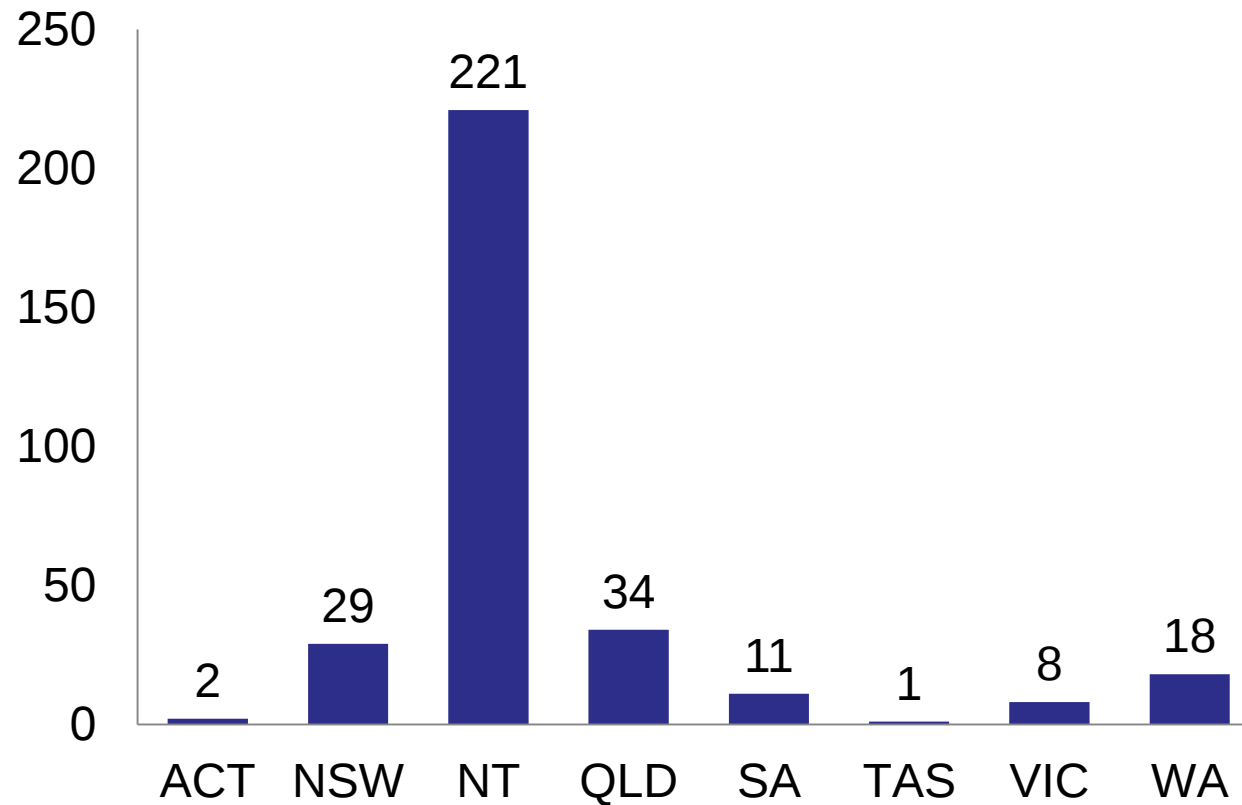
Why be part of a regulated workforce?

- What's in it for you, and what's in it for the community?
- Being a registered health practitioner gives you formal recognition as a member of a profession, regulated by a national law, in force in each state and territory, and it ensures you have the right training and CPD to be a safe practitioner
- Your employer – and your community – have a guarantee that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practice in a competent and ethical manner are registered

Why be part of a regulated workforce?

- Through an accreditation process we'll assess all programs of study and the training leading to this profession's registration qualification
- This function will lead to improved delivery of education and training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the health sector
- The NT has registered AHWs since 1985, and other states and territories have responded well to national registration since July 2012

Why be part of a regulated workforce?



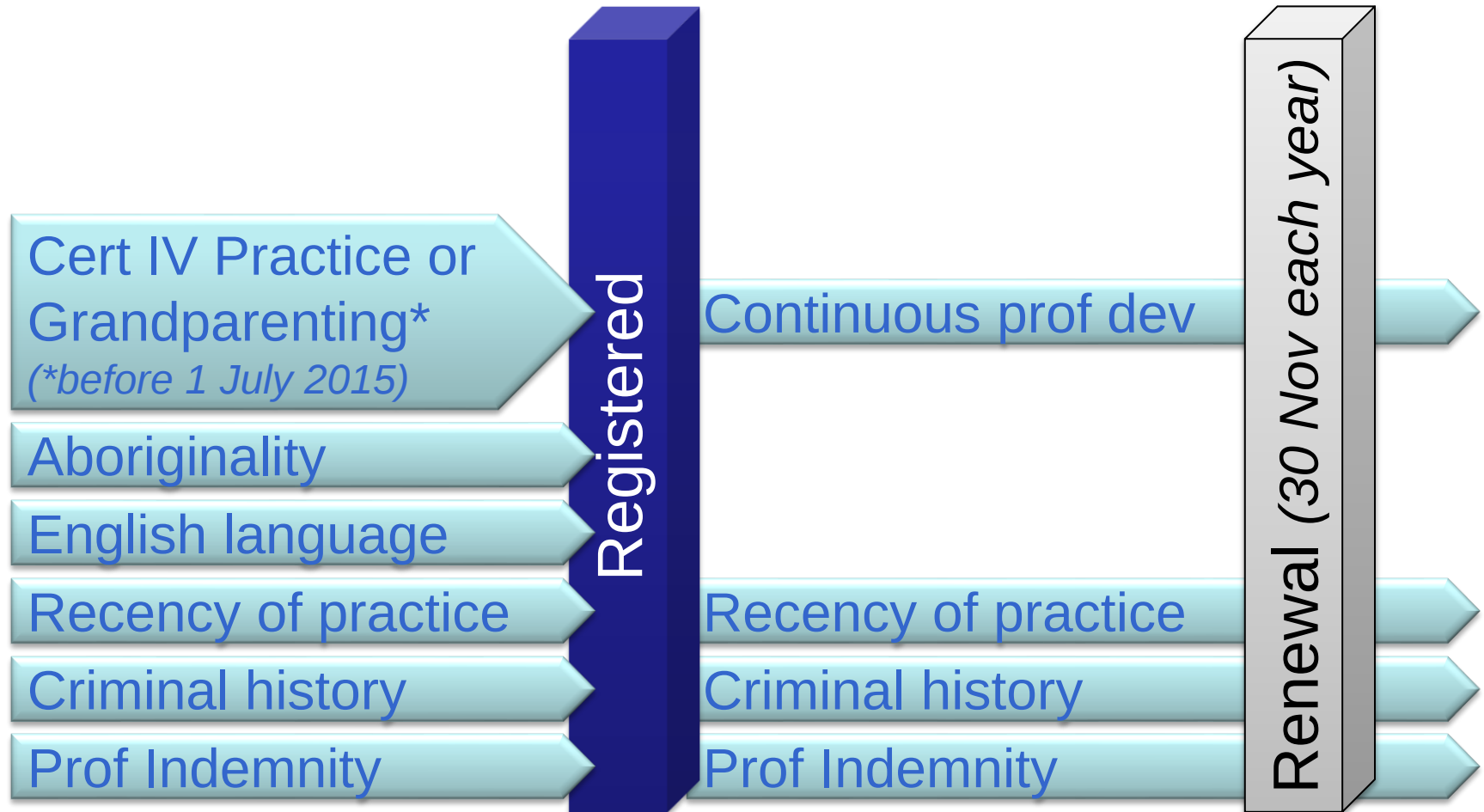
Who should register?

- According to the Board's registration standards, eligibility for registration is as follows:
 - identify and accepted as an Aboriginal person and/or Torres Strait Islander,
 - hold the *HLT40213 Cert IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander PHC Practice*, or equivalent, or hold alternative qualifications and/or experience,
 - not have committed serious criminal offences,
 - have professional indemnity insurance in place,
 - if returning to practice, not have been absent from the field for long periods of time.

How to register

- Applicants are granted *unconditional* registration if they meet all of the Board's registration standards
- On the other hand, some applicants are granted *conditional* registration because they didn't meet all of the Board's registration standards
- There are six registration standards which apply to registration applicants are:
 - Grandparenting provisions
 - Recency of practice
 - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
 - Criminal history
 - Professional indemnity insurance
 - English language

How to register



Registrants' responsibilities

- **Renew** and pay registration fees each year by 30 November,
- Undertake a minimum of 10 hours CPD per year and a minimum of 60 hours over three years (with at least 45 hours as formal CPD activities, i.e. courses, conferences, seminars, in-service programs, etc.),
- Hold a current First Aid Certificate, which includes annual CPR training,
- Comply with the Board's *Code of Conduct*.

What we have done along the way so far?

- The Board has come a long way since 1 July 2012
- At that time we registered 271 health practitioners (253 from NT and 18 others). As at March 2014 there were 324 registered health practitioners
- Our registration function in place, and last November we approved new accreditation standards,
- Despite limited funds, we've prioritised being here to discuss registration with you.

The Board and AHPRA

- The National Law established:
 - 14 National Boards with responsibilities to regulate the 14 health professions under the National Scheme
 - AHPRA as the national agency to provide administrative assistance and support to the boards in exercising their functions in an efficient and effective manner, and in accordance with good regulatory practice
- AHPRA enters into contracts, employs staff and implements decisions on behalf of boards.

The Board and AHPRA

- There are nine members on the Board:
 - 6 practitioner members and
 - 3 community members
- All National Board members are appointed by the Ministerial Council
- All National Boards are self funded through the registration and accreditation fees that are collected
- The Board currently receives a small grant from the federal, state and territory governments, but future funding is not guaranteed at this time.

Where to get more information

- Contact the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
Phone 1300 419 495
- Registration forms, standards, codes, guidelines, and news:

www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au/

Thank you

Questions and Answers