

Media release

25 January 2011

AHPRA reminds health practitioners: your renewal may be (past) due!

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is reminding many health practitioners to renew their registration by the end of January or risk losing their registration – and the ability to practise in Australia.

Practitioners who were due to renew their registration by 31 December 2010 or 1 January 2011 are now able to practise in a one month 'late period' after their registration expiry date. However, they must renew within one month of their expiry date or they will lose their registration and the right to practise their profession.

Under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law), once the 'late period' ends, registration lapses and AHPRA must remove practitioners from the National Register. AHPRA has no discretion about this. Lapsed registrants may not practise in Australia without making a new application for registration.

Most practitioners can renew their registration online at www.ahpra.gov.au by using the unique *contact number* (login ID) provided on the registration renewal notice sent to them before their registration was due. Online registration is completed within two to 48 hours, depending on method of payment chosen by the practitioner.

Practitioners who do not have their unique contact number can get it by calling 1 300 419 495 or by submitting an [online enquiry form](#) – selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry. Practitioners can also mail their renewal application to AHPRA, GPO Box 9958 in their capital city.

Practitioners whose registration application has been received by AHPRA can continue to practise while their application is being processed, even if it is more than one month after their registration expiry date.

Practitioners can check that their application has been received at www.ahpra.gov.au.

AHPRA CEO, Martin Fletcher, said AHPRA was striving to ensure that all practitioners who want to continue practising after 1 February 2011 are registered.

"While it is up to practitioners to make sure they are registered, AHPRA is doing everything it can to support the registration renewal process," Mr Fletcher said.

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au for more information or under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

Background

Since 1 July 2010, AHPRA has renewed the registration of more than 275,000 practitioners, registered more than 24,000 new health practitioners and created National Registers with more than 520,000 registered health practitioners.

Before the National Scheme was introduced, health practitioners had to renew their registration annually with state and territory boards. AHPRA now manages the renewal process on behalf of the 10 health practitioner National Boards and issues renewal notices directly to registrants. Individual health practitioners are responsible for making sure their registration is current.

Because the national system is new, AHPRA has taken extra steps to remind practitioners of their obligations to renew, after sending the initial renewal reminder. This includes updates on websites, reminder emails (when we have email contact details), SMS, Board newsletters, briefings to professional groups and media promotion.

AHPRA also writes to practitioners who do not renew their registration on time, warning them that their registration will lapse after the one month late period. Neither AHPRA nor the National Boards have the power to re-register a lapsed health practitioner unless they lodge a new registration application, which can take time to process.

Fast track applications to renew

To help registrants who have forgotten to renew their registration or supplied incorrect contact details, AHPRA has established a fast-track application process.

All practitioners who transferred to the National Scheme with registration from a previous state or territory registration board can use this to apply for registration during the one month after their registration lapses.

The fast track process does not require proof of identity; does not require verification of qualifications (if this was recorded as part of previous registration); does not require verification of English language skills; and does not require registration history or work history. The process does require practitioners to make declarations about their continuing professional development.

After a transition period, the national scheme will align the registration renewal date for each profession nationally. The national renewal of registration dates will be:

- 31 May for nursing and midwifery practitioners
- 30 September for medical practitioners
- 30 November for all other professions