



Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Nursing and Midwifery
Optometry

Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Media release

18 April 2011

Snapshot of national registers

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has today released a snapshot profile of Australia's registered health practitioners.

AHPRA CEO, Mr Martin Fletcher, said the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme made it possible for the first time to know how many registered health practitioners there are in Australia at any one point in time, within the 10 professions in the National Scheme.

"In the past, the same person could be registered in different states and territories, so a clear profile of the number of practitioners within a specific profession was not always possible," Mr Fletcher said.

"Having access to this kind of accurate and detailed information is one of the benefits of national registration because it will assist in workforce planning," he said.

A snapshot of the Registers of Practitioners in April 2011 (detailed below by state and territory) reveals:

- There are 528,000 health practitioners registered across the 10 professions in the National Scheme.
- There are 331,376 registered nurses and midwives, making these professions the largest of the 10 regulated under the National Scheme.
- There are nearly 88,000 registered medical practitioners, nearly 29,000 registered psychologists, nearly 26,000 pharmacists, about 22,000 physiotherapists, 18,000 dental practitioners and between 1,500 and 5,000 registrants in each of the other five professions.
- NSW has the most registered health practitioners (156,000), followed by Victoria (136,500) and Queensland (close to 100,000).

Mr Fletcher said it was important to remember that the National Register was dynamic, reflecting registrants' movement through the professions. He cautioned that there was a distinction between registered practitioners and practitioners active in the workforce, as not all practitioners who are registered to practise choose to do so. There are also some practitioners who hold non-practising registration.

Other data show that:

- More than 370,000 health practitioners have renewed their registration since 1 July 2010.
- Close to 38,000 health practitioners have registered for the first time since 1 July 2010.

- There has been an overall increase in the size of the health workforce with a nett growth of around 13,000 registered health practitioners since 1 July 2010.
- There are around 75,000 students on the student register which was established in March 2011.
- Close to 315,000 registered practitioners are in the process of renewing in the lead up to May and June 2011.

Mr Fletcher said establishing the National Scheme was the most comprehensive and complex reform of health practitioner regulation ever undertaken in Australia..

“It is one of the most ambitious regulatory reforms undertaken anywhere in the world and places public and patient safety at the heart of health practitioner regulation,” Mr Fletcher said.

He encouraged all registered health practitioners to check their registration renewal date on the [National Register of Practitioners](#), as about half of Australia’s registered practitioners would be due to renew in May and June 2011.

“We are in the process of aligning registration renewal dates nationally for practitioners, so by 2012 nurses and midwives will be due to renew on 31 May, most medical practitioners will be due to renew on 30 September and all other registered professions will be due to renew by 30 November each year,” Mr Fletcher said.

“This year we are making the transition to these new dates, so the period of renewal and fees will be varied pro-rata so that by 2012, there will be national consistency in renewal dates under the National Scheme,” he said.

As part of a renewals campaign, AHPRA is sending email and mail reminders to encourage health practitioners to renew on line (wherever possible) and on time.

**Number of registered health practitioners by profession and nominated principal place of practice:
April 2011**

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Other**	Total
Chiropractor	57	1,460	21	682	347	42	1,149	460	108	4,326
Dental practitioner *	330	5,584	119	3,528	1,571	319	4,136	2,069	499	18,155
Medical practitioner	1,715	27,798	936	16,971	6,922	2,033	21,353	8,241	2,015	87,984
Midwife	18	324	11	224	308	7	623	166	79	1,760
Nurse	4,379	79,004	2,867	54,415	26,987	7,497	76,598	28,240	8,874	288,861
Nurse and midwife	735	14,447	591	7,645	2,653	727	10,389	3,242	326	40,755
Optometrist	73	1,498	29	913	216	82	1,096	339	183	4,429
Osteopath	34	513	2	142	28	39	694	55	85	1,592
Pharmacist	405	8,104	177	4,992	1,834	606	6,308	2,826	586	25,838
Physiotherapist	425	6,536	138	4,105	1,827	382	5,482	2,649	642	22,186
Podiatrist	44	911	12	583	346	84	1,087	346	26	3,439
Psychologist	769	9,899	200	5,033	1,423	502	7,585	2,973	315	28,699
Total	8,984	156,078	5,103	99,233	44,462	12,320	136,500	51,606	13,738	528,024

* Dental practitioners includes dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, oral health therapists and dental prosthetists.

** In some instances AHPRA does not have a record of a practitioner's principal place of practice in Australia. This may be because the practitioner maintains registration in Australia while working overseas.

For more information

- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au 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