

NRAS Newsletter

National Registration & Accreditation Scheme

December 2009



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Latest News

This is the second and final Newsletter for 2009. The year has seen the NRAS scheme develop and the beginnings of the legislative framework fall into place.

NSW and Victoria have adopted Queensland's *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009*, Tasmania has passed their Bill C through the lower house and the NT and ACT have introduced their Bill C's to their Parliaments. WA will introduce Bill C as soon as possible when Parliament returns from the summer break on the 23rd February 2010.

On the local front, Western Australia has been fortunate to have Robyn Collins appointed as State Manager. I am sure we all extend our congratulations to Robyn and look forward to her taking up the role in the New Year. Recruitment for senior staff within the State Office is also underway

Contact Details:

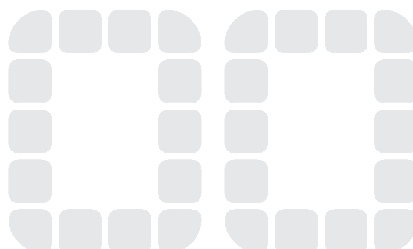
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Transition Updates

Legislation

Bill C

In order to create the National legislative framework for NRAS each State and territory must pass enabling legislation. States and Territories, other than WA, are adopting the legislation passed initially by the Queensland Parliament. WA has elected to pass corresponding legislation.

The other States and Territories have also elected to pass their Bill C's in two parts. NSW and Victoria have adopted the Queensland legislation and will pass the remaining amendments and corresponding legislation that makes up Bill C, early next year. Tasmania has passed the first part of Bill C through their Lower House and ACT and NT have introduced the legislation to their Parliaments.

WA will pass Bill C - both the corresponding Queensland legislation and the amendments and consequential legislation - as a single piece of legislation as early as possible next year when the WA Parliament resumes on the 23rd February 2010

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Nationally

Martin Fletcher took up his post as AHPRA's CEO on the 21st December. John Illott commenced as Director, Operation in December and Chris Robertson, Director, Board Services will take up his post in the New Year.

AHPRA has decided that the building originally identified for both the National Office and the Victorian State Office is unsuitable and is seeking new office accommodation.

WA

Robyn Collins has been appointed State Manager and it is anticipated that she will take up her post in February. Robyn is currently CEO of the Nurses & Midwives Board of WA and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in managing boards.

Recruitment is underway for the State Office Directors positions.

Work is also underway to identify a single State Office. This becomes a high priority and it is hoped to have the office set up and ready to commence training staff by April 2010.



Transition Updates

Staffing Update

Enterprise Agreement

There are on-going discussions and negotiations between AHPRA and the ACTU and principle unions regarding the Enterprise Agreement. However at this stage it has not been possible to reach agreement.

AHPRA will continue to work on establishing an EA.

Staff Transition

AHPRA was hoping to be able to send the letter of offer to the current eligible state board employees before Christmas and included a revised EA, however this was not possible. AHPRA are now planning to send the letter of offer as early as possible in the New Year.

Information Technology

Registration System

Functional testing has been carried out in December and user-acceptance testing will be carried out in January and February.

Data Migration

Ensuring that existing Boards data is transferred safely and with integrity to the new AHPRA database is extremely important. Letters have gone to Boards requesting data and the contractors will commence working with Boards in the New Year.

Finances

Due-Diligence Audit

KPMG has carried out the pilot Due-Diligence Audit on the SALT schedules submitted by the State Boards - the NMBWA was one of the Boards chosen to take part in the pilot.

KPMG are back in WA towards the end of January to carry out the Due-Diligence Audit.

Transition Updates

Decommissioning Plan

Registration renewal

The National Boards have determined Registration renewal dates:

Chiropractic:	30 November
Dental:	30 November
Medical:	30 September
Nursing & Midwifery:	31 May
Optometry:	30 November
Pharmacy:	30 November
Physiotherapy:	30 November
Podiatry:	30 November
Psychology:	30 November

There is provision for those registrants whose re-registration date falls on 30 June 2010 to have a one month grace period in order to apply for late renewal of registration.

National Boards

The National Boards are meeting on a monthly basis.

Registration Standards

The Boards are busily collating the responses they have received following the consultation process on the registration standards

Board structure

The Medical Board, Nursing & Midwifery Board, the Dental Board and the Physiotherapy Board have all elected to form State Boards. The other boards are opting to either set up Regional Boards or set up state based panels to deal with complaints and complex registration issues locally.

Where to from here:

- Transition Coordination meetings - 7 and 21 January 2010
- Second Bill C Forum - tba

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