

Media release

1 November 2013

2012/13 National Scheme Annual Report published

The 2012/13 Annual Report of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards has been published.

The report details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme over the 12 months to 30 June 2013.

There are now more than 590,000 health practitioners registered to practise in Australia – an increase in all professions and more than ever before – with one in 20 working Australians a registered health practitioner.

‘The National Scheme has a significant impact on the lives of many Australians – directly on all health practitioners who are registered to practise, and indirectly through our work to protect public safety and maintain professional standards,’ AHPRA Agency Management Committee Chair Peter Allen said.

‘The ongoing, effective functioning of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is a reflection of the partnership and collaboration between AHPRA and the National Boards,’ Mr Allen said.

For the occupational therapy profession the report reveals that:

- 15,101 occupational therapists were registered at the end of June 2013, of which 50 per cent were aged under 35
- 50 notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about occupational therapists and of these 42 were lodged outside NSW where there is a co-regulatory system¹
- 35 notifications were closed by the end of June 2013, including 30 managed outside of NSW
- of the 30 notifications closed under the National Scheme, the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia determined:
 - to take no further action in 26 cases
 - that conditions be imposed on a practitioner’s registration in one case, and
 - to issue a caution in three cases.
- the Board developed and published a large number of standards, codes and guidelines to guide registered occupational therapists.

Occupational Therapy Board of Australia Chair, Dr Mary Russell, said effective and proportionate regulation was the constant goal of all National Boards.

¹ NSW is part of the National Scheme but notifications about practitioners’ health, performance and conduct are handled by the [HCCC](#) and the NSW health professional councils supported by the [HPCA](#).

'Every decision National Boards make consciously focuses on striking the right balance between public safety and facilitating access to health services,' Dr Russell said.

'This report explains the work we do, and accounts to the community and the health professions about how we do it,' she said.

The annual report is published on the [AHPRA website](#) under *Legislation and publications*.

It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia.

A media release about the report – with data across professions and jurisdictions – is published on the [AHPRA website](#).

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 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200