

## Media release

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November 2011

### First national physiotherapy data released

**The first ever national data on physiotherapy is now available with the release of Physiotherapy Board of Australia information in the AHPRA and National Boards' annual report**

More than two thirds of Australia's physiotherapists are aged under 44 and the profession is the fifth largest of the regulated professions, according to data now published in the annual report of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia.

The release of the 2010-11 annual report by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the national boards gives an essential, first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners across 10 professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). One in 44 Australians is a registered health practitioner.

As well as profiling the professions and practitioners, the report provides the first national data on notifications (complaints) involving health practitioners and the actions taken by national boards to protect public safety.

Chair of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia, Mr Glenn Ruscoe, said the 2010-11 annual report demonstrated transparent and accountable reporting by AHPRA and the national board about their work in regulating the profession and protecting the public.

"The introduction of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010 represents an unparalleled reform of health practitioner regulation. This annual report provides comprehensive data about the first year of operation of the national scheme, across all areas of operation of AHPRA and the national boards," Mr Ruscoe said.

"The national scheme is sound, robust and a great asset for the Australian community," he said.

Important information about the physiotherapy profession published in the report includes:

- There were 22,384 physiotherapists registered to practise in Australia on 30 June 2011
- Nearly 30% of physiotherapists are based in New South Wales and 24% are based in Victoria
- there are 4,607 students of physiotherapy on the student register, which includes nearly 99,000 registered students across the 10 professions
- About 68% of physiotherapists are aged between 20 and 44 years
- Nearly 11,500 physiotherapists who have disclosed their gender to AHPRA are female and 4640 are male. Many boards before the National Scheme did not collect data on the sex of registrants and there were more than 6000 practitioners who have not yet provided this information

- There were 111 notifications lodged about registered physiotherapists during the year (not including concerns about advertising), representing notifications about 0.5% of all registered physiotherapists
- The Physiotherapy Board of Australia and the Physiotherapy Council in NSW\* took immediate action on the registration of six practitioners during the year, imposing conditions on the registration of five practitioners and accepting an undertaking from one practitioner
- There were five mandatory notifications made about registered physiotherapists during the year.

The annual report is an important source of information about the Board's activities in 2010-11. Achievements for the Physiotherapy Board of Australia during the year included; a focus on consistency of decision making across geographic borders; ensuring registration standards and codes and guidelines were effective operationally; a review of the Board's supervision guidelines and guidelines on limited registration; and led the development of an accreditation standard for acupuncture.

Mr Ruscoe encouraged physiotherapy practitioners, patients, employers, educators, professional associations and the Australian community to read the 2010-11 annual report, published at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) under *Legislation and publications > AHPRA publications*.

### More information about the National Scheme

More summaries of annual report data are published on the AHPRA website:

- [registrations](#)
- [criminal records checks](#)
- [notifications](#)
- [state and territory roundup: breakdown by profession and](#)
- [national information about other regulated health practitioner professions.](#)

### For more information

- Refer to the [AHPRA Annual Report](#)
- Visit [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://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

*\*AHPRA and the National Boards are responsible for the management of notifications against practitioners across Australia, except in NSW, where the Health Professional Councils, supported by the Health Professions Council Authority (HPCA), are responsible.*