

Media release

6 November 2015

2014/15 National Scheme annual report launched

The [2014/15 annual report: AHPRA and 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 2015.

There are now more than 637,218 health practitioners registered to practise in Australia, from 14 different professions, representing overall growth of 2.9% over the past year.

Physiotherapy Board of Australia Chair Mr Paul Shinkfield said assurance, challenge and improvement in proportionate regulation remained the focus for National Boards.

‘As National Boards we strive to be a driving force for positive change and thought leadership in public safety and facilitating access to health services,’ Mr Shinkfield said.

‘Our efforts continue to identify a range of activities to improve patient safety and the quality of regulation for health professions. This report helps to inform the public and health practitioners as to how we meet our objectives and responsibilities on their behalf,’ he said.

‘Information about each of these registered health practitioners is easily available to the community through the national online register,’ said Martin Fletcher, Chief Executive Officer of AHPRA.

‘Maintaining an up to date national register is one of the most important ways in which we protect the public.’

For the physiotherapy profession, the report reveals that:

- 27,543 practitioners were registered at the end of June 2015, an increase of 5.4 per cent from the previous year
- 57 notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about physiotherapists (excluding NSW where there is a co-regulatory system)¹
- 83 notifications about practitioners were closed by 30 June 2015
- of the 83 cases closed under the National Scheme, the Physiotherapy Board of Australia determined:
 - to take no further action or that the case was to be handled by the relevant health complaints entity in the relevant state or territory in 51 cases
 - that conditions be imposed on a practitioner’s registration in eight cases,
 - in 15 cases cautions would be issued, and
 - two cases resulted in cancellation or suspension of a practitioner’s registration.
- the Board completed a successful collaboration with the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand, culminating in the launch of *Bi-national physiotherapy practice threshold statements*

- the Board starting working with the Australian Physiotherapy Council to embed the Physiotherapy Practice Thresholds into Australian programs of physiotherapy study, as well as the assessment processes for overseas-trained physiotherapists, and
- the Board improved regulatory efficiencies and was able to reduce its registrant fees for the second year running.

The annual report is published at www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015. It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Physiotherapy Board of Australia.

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

A report, which presents the data specific to physiotherapy practice, will be published on the Board's website before the end of the calendar year.

For more information

- Go to www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015
- Read the National Scheme [media release](#)
- Lodge an [online enquiry form](#)
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

¹NSW 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](#).