

Chiropractic Dental Medical Nursing and Midwifery Optometry Osteopathy Pharmacy Physiotherapy Podiatry Psychology

# AHPRA on the Move!

#### 13 September 2010

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is making steady progress as it implements the country's first National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

AHPRA is firmly focused on delivering a thorough and timely national scheme that supports the 10 National Health Practitioner Boards in their core role of protecting the public. We are working closely with National Boards, the professions and governments to ensure that registration standards are clear and well implemented.

#### **Registrations and Renewals Underway**

Despite some initial teething problems, applications for registration are now being routinely processed and AHPRA continues to address new challenges promptly. In July and August, more than 2400 new applications for registration were finalised across 10 professions. Since the scheme began on 1 July 2010, more than 27,000 practitioners have successfully renewed their registration, 75% of these online.

Planning is underway to prepare for the registration of the graduate intake at the end of 2010.

Registration renewal for more than 40,000 medical practitioners is now underway for doctors in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, the Northern Territory and the ACT. More than 7000 doctors have already renewed on-line. Most doctors in Queensland renewed their registration in June. Some doctors in NSW are due to renew by 30 September and for others, renewal is linked to their birthdate.

### Responding to your Queries

During August, AHPRA received 50,000 phone calls to its Call Centre and also responded to more than 14,000 email and web queries. AHPRA's response systems have improved markedly with more than 70 percent of enquiries dealt with during the initial phone contact. We aim is to respond to web queries within 48 hours and we are meeting this target.

AHPRA and National Board websites continue to be well used with more than 300,000 visits in August 2010. This volume indicates that in only the second month of operation, the websites are being increasingly used as a comprehensive source of information about national registration.

## **Commencement of Employer Service**

After a successful pilot, an employer service for the national registers was initiated this week. This will allow employers to access publically available registration details of several thousand practitioners, to effectively check the registration status of their employees.

Work is continuing to assure the accuracy and completeness of the <u>national registers</u>. Good progress has been made after importing 1.5 million data items about health practitioners from 38 systems into the national registers.