

Communiqué

28 October 2018

October 2018 meeting of the Paramedicine Board of Australia

The Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders about the work of the Board. Please share it on to colleagues or employees who may be interested.

Registration will become mandatory for paramedics from 1 December 2018 when paramedicine becomes regulated under the National Law.

The Board held its 13th meeting at the AHPRA offices in Adelaide and took the opportunity to meet with the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner for South Australia. The Board also hosted a forum for practitioners and met with a number of stakeholders on the day following the meeting.

National regulation to start on 1 December 2018

At the [COAG Health Council meeting](#) held on 12 October 2018, Ministerial Council agreed that the national regulation of paramedicine will start on **1 December 2018**. From this date paramedicine becomes a nationally regulated profession and the title 'paramedic' will become protected by law. This means that only people who are registered with the Board will be able to lawfully call themselves a paramedic.

All Australian paramedics must be registered with the Board when regulation starts - or have applied for registration - if they wish to continue to use the title and/or practise as a paramedic. This is an important change for the profession.

For the public it means being assured that a person calling themselves a paramedic is suitably trained and qualified to practise the profession and has met the national standards for registration.

Paramedics can find out everything they need to know about applying for registration at www.paramedicineboard.gov.au.

New transitional arrangements policy for English language skills

The Board has recently identified that there are a small number of paramedics who have been practising for a substantial period of time in Australia who will not meet any of the education pathways in the [English language skills registration standard](#) (English language standard) and will need to use a testing pathway.

The [English language standard](#) requires all applicants for registration to demonstrate that they can speak and communicate sufficiently in English. In developing these transitional arrangements, the Board's primary objective is to ensure the protection of the public while addressing the unique circumstances of the transition period to the national registration of paramedics.

Currently, there are four pathways through which practitioners can demonstrate their competence in English, including three education pathways and an English language test pathway. Paramedics who completed their schooling and qualification for registration in Australia will meet the standard through the combined secondary and qualifications or training pathway.

These provisions are only available to practitioners who meet the following criteria and the opportunity to use this transitional testing pathway will close on 28 February 2019, so any applications seeking to use this option must be made before this date.

The transitional arrangements policy allows for an additional English language test consisting of a practical assessment by an approved Employer. This pathway is only open to applicants who have been practising paramedicine in Australia for over five years.

You can find out more about the [Transitional arrangements policy](#) and the criteria you need to meet on the [Board's website](#).

Qualifications

The Board approved the following Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) accredited program of study below, as [approved qualifications](#) for general registration under section 310 of the National Law:

- LaTrobe University – Bachelor of Paramedic Practice with Honours.

The Board has also published a starting list of adequate qualifications assessed as meeting the [grandparenting pathway](#) which will continue to be updated as other qualifications are assessed as meeting the requirements. Please see the [grandparenting page](#) on the Board's website for further information.

Sign up for updates and keep informed

Sign up for [e-News updates](#) from the Board and AHPRA to stay in touch with upcoming events and receive the latest news about the implementation period for national regulation of paramedics.

The latest e-News update can also be found on the [Board's website](#).

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