



COAG Health Council

Communiqué

11 September 2018

Purpose of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

Health Ministers recognise the important contribution to health service delivery by all health professions, including those regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS), and those that are regulated by other means. Ministers have decided to issue the following statement in response to concerns that some government policies, funding arrangements and programs specifically exclude participation of certain health professions on the basis that they are not regulated under the NRAS.

Purpose of the NRAS

The purpose of the NRAS is to protect the public from harm. It is not intended as a means to protect the interests of health professions or to confer standing or credibility on individual professions. Inclusion of a profession in the NRAS is not indicative of that profession's value or its contribution to health service delivery.

A profession's eligibility to participate in government programs (for example, research or development programs) is determined by each program's objectives and intended outcomes, not by the regulatory arrangements applicable to that profession. Concerns about inequitable treatment of a profession can and should be raised directly with the State, Territory or Commonwealth department responsible for the relevant program.

Forms of regulation

The NRAS is one of a number of forms of health practitioner regulation. Other forms of regulation include: professional codes and standards; membership of professional organisations and associations; consumer protection legislation; and statutory codes of conduct administered by governments (including the National Code of Conduct for health care workers).

Approval by Health Ministers for the inclusion of a new profession in the NRAS is subject to a formal regulatory impact assessment process.

Public confidence in the quality and professionalism of Australia's health workforce is underpinned by a fit-for-purpose regulatory system that ensures the public is protected and services are safe and accessible.

Further information on regulation of health care workers

- For a list of regulated health professions under the NRAS, see www.ahpra.gov.au
- For details of the criteria and process for adding new professions to the NRAS: *AHMAC information on regulatory assessment criteria and process for adding new professions to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the health professions-* <http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/NRAS>
- National Code of Conduct for health care workers and state and territory codes: - www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/NationalCodeOfConductForHealthCareWorkers
- For further information on the Independent Review of the NRAS, see: <http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Projects/Independent-Review-of-NRAS-finalised>
- For further information on the COAG regulatory assessment processes, see Council of Australian Governments Best Practice Regulation: A guide for Ministerial Councils and standard setting Bodies available at:
www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/regulation/best-practice-regulation-guide-ministerial-councils-and-national-standard-setting-bodies