



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Practice
Chinese Medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical Radiation Practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

The development of regulatory principles for the Australian National Registration and Accreditation Scheme – what is it and why is it important?

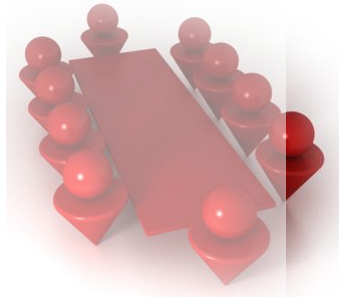
Joanne Katsoris

IAMRA 2014

What's the problem?



From **8 States and Territories** to **1 single National Scheme** with consistent standards



From over **97 health profession boards** to **14 National Boards**

Multiple regulatory philosophies –
1 Scheme

From **78 Acts of Parliament** to **1 National Law**



What's the solution?

Regulatory principles

A description of what we take into consideration when we make regulatory decisions



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What is the basis of our regulatory principles?

Our principles are based on:

- the National Law and
- the Council of Australian Government (COAG) principles for best practice regulation and
- the specific circumstances requiring a decision, taking into account:
 - the expectations of the community and
 - the context, conduct and culture of the profession being regulated.



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What will the regulatory principles deliver?

- improved decision-making - focus thinking on assessing risk and protecting the community
- improve transparency – better explain decisions to the community and practitioners
- improve consistency – consistent regulatory force for similar levels of risk.
- commit resources rationally to manage risk.



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Our regulatory principles

- We administer and comply with the National Law, as in force in each state and territory. The scope of our work is defined by the National Law.
- We protect the health and safety of the public by ensuring that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered.
- While we balance all the objectives of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, our primary consideration is to protect the public.
- When we are considering an application for registration, or when we become aware of concerns about a health practitioner, we protect the public by taking timely and necessary action under the National Law.



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Our regulatory principles

- In all areas of our work we:
 - identify the risks that we are obliged to respond to
 - assess the likelihood and possible consequences of the risks and
 - respond in ways that are proportionate and manage risks so we can adequately protect the public.
- When we take action about practitioners, we use the minimum regulatory force to manage the risk posed by their practice, to protect the public. Our actions are designed to protect the public and not to punish practitioners.
- While our actions are not intended to punish, we acknowledge that practitioners will sometimes feel that our actions are punitive.

Our regulatory principles

- Community confidence in health practitioner regulation is important. Our response to risk considers the need to uphold professional standards and maintain public confidence in the regulated health professions.
- We work with our stakeholders, including the public and professional associations to achieve good and protective outcomes. We do not represent the health professions or health practitioners. However, we will work with practitioners and their representatives to achieve outcomes that protect the public.



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How are we using them

- Piloting for 12 months including consultation
- Started to road test decision against the principles
- Initial impressions – ‘this is what we do anyway’
- Uses
 - to train new Board members
 - for decisions where there is a range of views
 - to explain the reasons for decisions



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