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**Paramedicine
Council**
of NSW

**Paramedicine Council of New South Wales
Newsletter October 2018**

Regulation of Paramedics starts soon



(Sourced from *Paramedicine Board of Australia*)

From 1 December 2018 paramedicine becomes a nationally regulated profession. The title 'paramedic' will become protected by law. This means that only people who are registered with the Paramedicine Board of Australia (the National Board) will be able to lawfully call themselves a paramedic.

All Australian paramedics must be registered with the National Board when regulation starts - or have applied for registration.

"Paramedics are an incredibly important part of the health system. Registering under the national scheme of regulation means each individual paramedic meets national standards and is suitably trained and qualified. And that's good news for everyone", National Board Chair Associate Professor Stephen Gough ASM said.

"If you're a paramedic who hasn't applied for registration with the Paramedicine Board by 1 December, and you continue to call yourself a paramedic, you could face penalties".

National regulation 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.

The Chief Executive of AHPRA, Martin Fletcher, which works in partnership with the National Board said this is an historic time for health in Australia.

"From December, paramedics will be joining an established national regulation scheme that has patient safety at its heart, which already has more than 750,000 registered health practitioners across 15 professions", he said.

"We encourage all paramedics to begin the online registration process now so that they're ready for regulation."

For more information about registration, visit the [Paramedicine Board of Australia](#).

From December, all registered paramedics will be listed on the free online register of practitioners at [AHPRA](#). If you want to see if someone is registered, you can search for them on the register.

Who we are and what we do

The Council is expected to be appointed late this month with their first meeting scheduled shortly after the appointment of members.

The primary role of the Council is to protect the public. The functions of the Council are to deal with health, performance and conduct complaints. The Council considers complaints with the independent Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) – a co-regulation model. Some complaints are dealt with by non-disciplinary programs for paramedics or students with health or performance issues. The Council also monitors conditions placed on paramedics (excluding registration issues).

In dealing with a complaint under the Health Practitioner National Law (NSW), the Council can:

- Make inquiries
- Manage the complaint as an Inquiry at a Council meeting
- Refer a paramedic or a student for a health assessment or to an impaired registrants panel
- Refer a paramedic or student for a performance assessment or a Performance Review Panel
- Direct a practitioner or student to counselling
- Take immediate action to suspend or impose conditions
- Determine to take no further action
- Refer a complaint to the HCCC for investigation, which may result in a paramedic being referred to the Tribunal
- Refer a complaint to the HCCC for resolution or conciliation
- Refer the complaint to another entity such as the National Board.

Privacy matters

The Council and members are required to comply with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act* and *Health Records and Information Privacy Act*.

How you'll hear from us

The Paramedicine Council of NSW will communicate with paramedics in NSW via their email registered with the Paramedicine Board of Australia. Universities and stakeholder agencies will continue to receive newsletters.

Our website is coming soon

The Council website will be launched in late November. The website will include information about complaints management and policies. Members of the public will be able to lodge complaints online from 1 December 2018.

Timeline

The timeline for appointment of the Council and commencement of registration is:

- October 2018 – appointment of the Council
 - November 2018 – first meeting of the Council
 - 1 December 2018 – regulatory scheme applies to paramedics.
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Useful links

[Paramedicine Board of Australia](#)

[Health Professional Councils Authority](#)

[Health Care Complaints Commission](#)

[NSW Legislation](#)

[Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#)

You are receiving this newsletter as part of the introduction of paramedicine to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The Health Professional Councils Authority is an important part of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. We work in partnership with the NSW

Health Professional Councils in the regulation of health practitioners in NSW.

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