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Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Media release

16 May 2011

Online applications smooth path from study to work

Students about to graduate as health practitioners can now go online to apply early for registration and smooth the path from study to work.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has introduced online registration for thousands of final year students starting with those who are about to graduate as health practitioners mid-year.

The online graduate registration service enables students to apply for registration early, four to six weeks before they complete their course.

Most students will be able to complete their registration application online, while others will use the dedicated web-pages to be directed to the correct application form. All applications require students to return some supporting documents to AHPRA by mail.

The online service builds on the early application process put in place at the end of 2010 for graduating students.

"AHPRA is continuously improving its services and strengthening its online capacity – in this case to streamline entry to the workforce for graduating students who need to be registered in their health profession before they can start work," AHPRA CEO Mr Martin Fletcher said.

Universities Australia welcomed the new online service.

"Smoothing the path to registration for students about to graduate is a great initiative. Our students have their hands full as they complete their courses and this will make the registration process easier and more timely," said Universities Australia CEO, Dr Glenn Withers.

To maximise the uptake of early graduating student applications, AHPRA is:

- Encouraging all students graduating as health practitioners in mid-2011 to go online and follow the prompts to the registration pathway tailored to them
- Urging all graduating students to apply for registration as a health practitioner four to six weeks before completing their course
- Equipping AHPRA staff to swiftly and successfully manage incoming graduate applications and queries

There are five simple steps to graduate registration:

1. Students apply for registration 4 to 6 weeks before completing their course at www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx
2. Applicants fill out an online application (if eligible) or download an application form. All applications require some documents to be sent to AHPRA by mail.
3. Education providers advise AHPRA when applicants are eligible to graduate
4. AHPRA finalises assessment, confirms registration, publishes new graduates' names on the Register of Practitioners and sends out registration certificates
5. New graduates are registered and eligible to start working as soon as their name is published on the Register of Practitioners

For more information

- Go to the Graduate Applications Website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Graduate-Applications.aspx> for FAQs and links to more information
- Lodge an Online Enquiry Form at <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/about-ahpra/contact-us/make-an-enquiry.aspx>
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200