

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

On the 1st July 2010 the States and Territories of Australia moved from 85 different pieces of legislation to a single piece of legislation for the registration and accreditation of ten health practitioner professions. Physiotherapy was an active participant during this process and has helped shape, and in turn has been shaped, by the significant change that has occurred. Governments took the opportunity presented to them to strengthen health practitioner registration and have attempted to take the best elements from around the states and territories to produce a National Scheme.

Significant changes to registration categories, registration standards, application and renewal processes and reporting obligations have occurred in order to meet higher standards expected of health professionals by the public. No longer is gaining a qualification and paying an annual fee sufficient for registration. Physiotherapists are now required to meet a host of new obligations to maintain their license to practice.

The single legislation has meant significant opportunities for cross-profession cooperation. A single administration supporting the ten Boards has fostered the opportunity for collaboration and raised understanding. It is expected that the benefits of cooperation will trickle down to the workers to ultimately benefit the people of Australia.