



Health Workforce Taskforce

News Update 1 February 2026

Regulation of Audiology under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) project

At the September 2025 Health Ministers Meeting, Health Ministers noted the updated Audiology Decision Regulatory Impact Statement. Health Ministers agreed to amend the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, following further policy work, to regulate the audiology profession under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health practitioners (the National Scheme).

The Health Workforce Taskforce is leading the work to transition audiology into the National Scheme. The [Health Workforce Taskforce](#) is an interjurisdictional health workforce committee made up of officers from the Australian Government and all state and territory jurisdictions, reporting to the Health Chief Executives Forum (HCEF). The Taskforce is chaired by Dr Shirley Bowen, Director-General Department of Health, Western Australia and a member of HCEF.

What is the National Scheme

The National Scheme started on 1 July 2010 with the commencement of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law in all Australian states and territories. The National Law is legislation, which is adopted across all states and territories, and is not a Commonwealth law.

The objectives of the National Scheme are:

- help keep the public safe by ensuring that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered
- facilitate workforce mobility for health practitioners
- facilitate provision of high-quality education and training for health practitioners
- build the capacity of the health workforce to provide culturally safe health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- facilitate the assessment of overseas qualified health practitioners
- facilitate access to services provided by health practitioners, and
- enable the continuous development of a flexible Australian health workforce.

There are 16 registered professions under the National Scheme regulated by 15 National Boards. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) administers the National Scheme and provides administrative support to the National Boards. There are over 900,000 health practitioners regulated under the National Scheme across Australia.



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About the Project

Responsibility for progressing regulation of audiology under the NRAS project is being shared by:

- The NRAS Policy Team (Victoria) - leading policy work to settle the details of the implementation process.
- The NRAS Legislative Team (Queensland) - responsible for preparing and enacting the necessary legislative changes to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.
- The Legislation Committee (a subcommittee of the Health Workforce Taskforce) - responsible for supporting development of policy parameters and contributing to the development of policy advice and legislative materials.
- Ahpra - responsible for implementing the administrative arrangements for national registration of audiologists once the necessary legislative changes have been made.

Preliminary policy development will commence in the first half of 2026. This will involve targeted consultation with key stakeholders and review of the information obtained as part of the regulatory impact analysis process that informed Health Ministers decisions regarding regulation of audiology. This will assist to identify key policy issues to be addressed and set the scope for future public consultation.

Following this process, public consultation on these policy issues and legislative changes will commence in the second half of 2026. This consultation will help shape the legislative amendments required to include audiology as the 17th profession regulated under the National Law. Further information about the consultation process will be provided in future updates.

After public consultation, the process of preparing legislation for passage through the Queensland Parliament will commence. Once the legislation has been passed, Ahpra will begin work on implementing the administrative arrangements, including the development of audiology profession registration standards, to support entry of audiology into the National Scheme.

As the outcome for each stage is dependent on the finalisation of the preceding stages, further updates with more detailed milestones will be provided in future updates.

It is anticipated that the legislative amendments which will allow Ahpra to commence implementation will be completed in the second half of 2028. Full implementation is expected to be completed 24-36 months after the legislative amendments have passed, with registration to commence on a date to be set by regulation.

Further bulletins containing updates on the progress of this project will be released periodically.

For further information please e-mail: HWTSecretariat@health.nsw.gov.au