



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

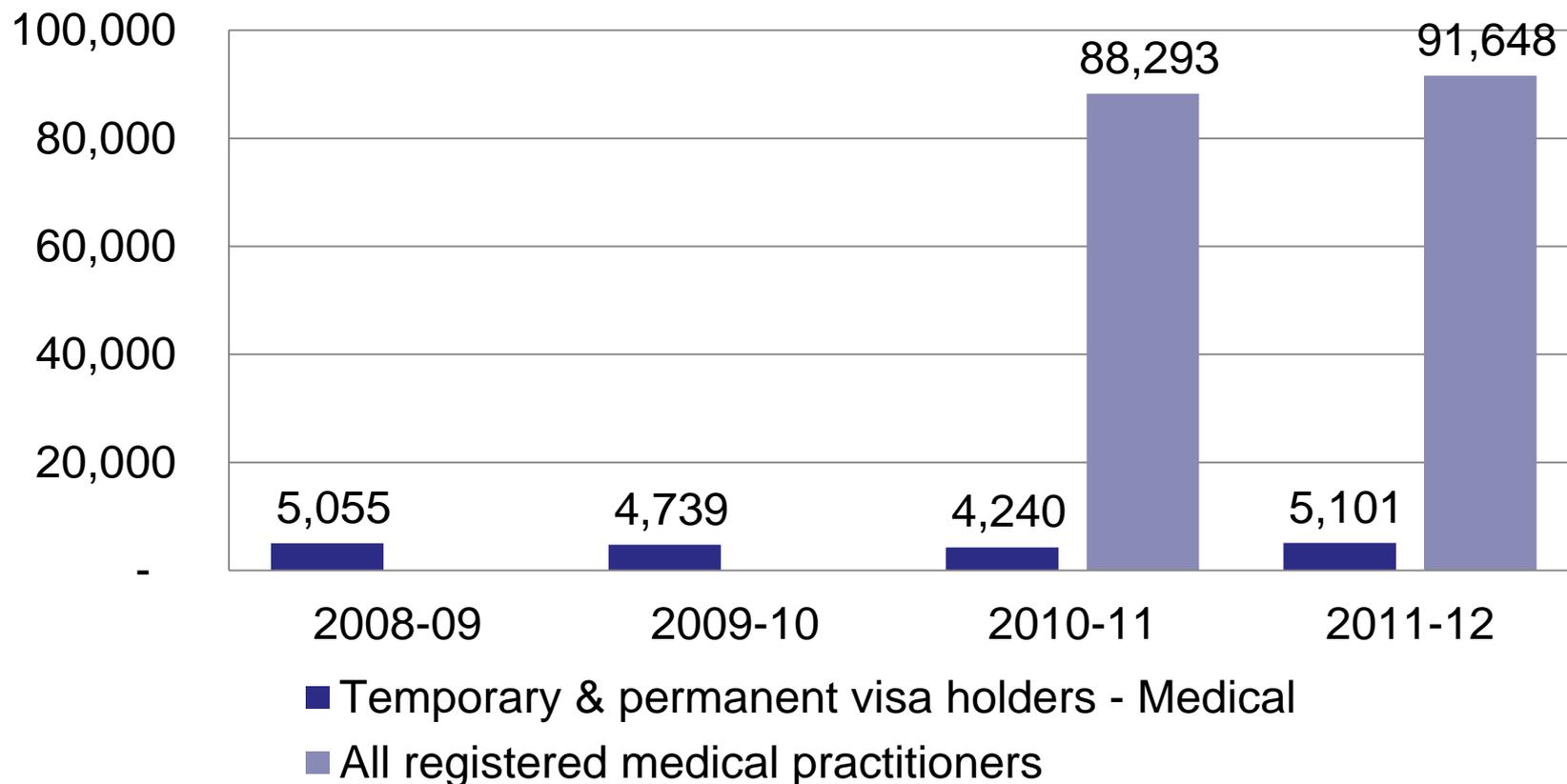
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Foreign Qualification Recognition - Panel Discussion

Peter Allen, Chair, Agency Management Committee,
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

14th International Health Workforce Collaborative 2013,
Quebec City, Canada, 7-9 May 2013

Scale of the traffic



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

Reforms to help meet health needs

- Australia has achieved significant reform within a federated system of government:
 - from **8** states and territories to **1** single National Scheme
 - from over **97** health profession boards to **14** national boards,
 - From **78** Acts of Parliament to **1** National Law,
- from July 2010 the National Scheme was established with ten health professions. A further four professions joined in July 2012,
- today, the 14 national boards regulate just under 600,000 registered health practitioners.



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

National standards and processes

- national consistency within each profession, and some common standards and processes across professions,
- nationally consistent customer experience for the public, health practitioners, employers and other stakeholders through one agency under one law,
- assessments of IEHPs are mostly done by a national board's accreditation authority (e.g. the Australian Medical Council), but in some cases, the national board may do this,
- national boards develop standards on the best available evidence and through wide ranging consultation.



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

Opportunities for improvement

- recent parliamentary inquiry into registration processes and support for IEHPs (doctors) identified the need to:
 - reduce red tape, duplication and administrative hurdles,
 - but ensure that the Australian standard continues to be rigorously applied,
- National Law allows a national board the power to grant registration on the basis of equivalency of qualifications or through the successful completion of an examination.



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

Challenges

- assuring national consistency of board decisions and organisational processes,
- balancing workforce needs with risks to the public,
- regulation without justification in terms of risk to the public,
- balancing unique characteristics of each health profession with standardisation,
- maintaining the confidence of multiple, successive governments.



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