



London, England



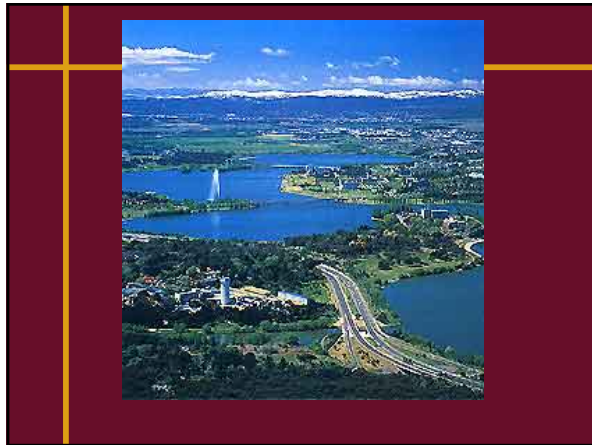
International Congress on Professional and Occupational Regulation

The Regulatory Continuum and the Role of the Regulator (Discussion Groups)

Margaret Grant
Australian Physiotherapy Council

7-8 July 2011

Promoting Regulatory Excellence

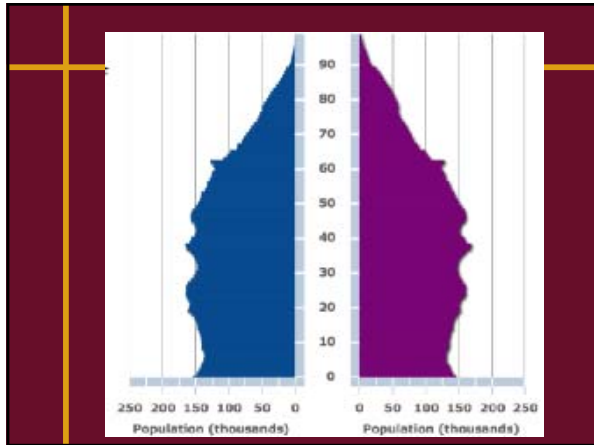


Overview

- The Australian context
- Regulatory change & structure
- National Boards
- Accreditation authorities
- Notifications
- Health Complaints Entities

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The Australian context & background

- Total population = 22.5 million
- A federation of six State and two Territories = nine governments
- Constitution limits power of Federal Parliament to legislate on matters
- Agenda to reform regulation across many sectors through national models including health practitioner regulation

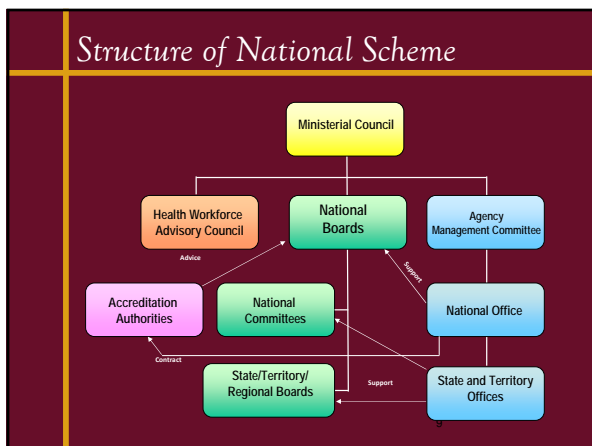
Regulatory change in Australia

Before 1 July 2010	After 1 July 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >85 Health Profession Boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Health Profession Boards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66 Separate Acts of Parliament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Law legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent across Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basically consistent across all States & Territories

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Health Professions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dentists (and oral health professions) • Pharmacists • Medical Practitioners • Physiotherapists • Nurses & Midwives • Optometrists • Psychologists • Osteopaths • Chiropractors • Podiatrists 	<p>From 1 July 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners • Chinese Medicine Practitioners • Medical Radiation Practitioners • Occupational Therapists
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National Board Composition

- Size and composition decided by the Ministerial Council, following consultation with the profession
- Appointed by Ministerial Council
- Public notice call for nominations
- At least half but not more than 2/3 must be practitioner members
- At least 2 must be community members

Accreditation authorities

- Independent organisations - ten accreditation councils
- First three year assignment by Ministerial Council
- National law provides National Board with ongoing responsibility for determining Accreditation Authority

Notifications

- Mandatory notifications
- Voluntary notifications
- Preliminary assessment

National Boards & notifications

- Oversee notification receipt, assessment and investigation
- Establish hearings panels
 - Health, performance and professional standards matters
- Refer matters to tribunals
- Negotiate, in good faith, a service agreement with the National Agency

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Role of Health Complaints Entities

- Investigate complaints about health systems or health service providers
- Investigate certain complaints about health practitioners
- Work with the National Agency to make sure each notification is investigated by the appropriate agency

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Closing

- Nearly 12 months into implementation
- Relatively smooth transition of >500,000 registered health practitioners
- Great potential to improve safety and quality of health care

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