Australasian Journal of Paramedicine

Volume 5 | Issue 2 Article 3

2012

National Regulation

Ian Patrick

Recommended Citation

Patrick, I. (2007). National Regulation. *Australasian Journal of Paramedicine,* 5(2).
Retrieved from http://ro.ecu.edu.au/jephc/vol5/iss2/3

This Editorial is posted at Research Online.
http://ro.ecu.edu.au/jephc/vol5/iss2/3

Journal of Emergency Primary Health Care (JEPHC), Vol.5, Issue 2, 2007

eJournal of Emergency Primary Health Care
www.jephc.com

ISSN 1447-4999

GUEST EDITORIAL

Article 990254

National Regulation

Ian Patrick ASM, FACAP
National President – Australian College of Ambulance Professionals

Delivering issues raised by ACAP members through the relationship project consultation is a key objective of the College Board.

Throughout that consultation, it was very clear that some form of national professional regulation has long been supported as a desirable objective for ACAP. However there was not a shared understanding of what that would mean to ACAP or individuals.

Regulation has been viewed as a necessary adjunct in the evolution of a profession now requiring enhanced educational foundations, and with practitioners engaged in clinical roles and exercising professional independence in unpredictable environments.

Among the catalysts for regulation is the public interest in quality standards and the need for accountability in emergency health care. New roles for paramedics employed outside the traditional state-based agencies also demand greater mobility and portability of professional recognition that is likely to be facilitated by regulation.

The industry has already taken a number of steps to enhance professionalism. The various state agencies have formed the Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) which has embarked on a program to develop national education standards and to establish means of accrediting education providers. ACAP also currently offers a self-regulation program in the form of its voluntary National Professional Recognition (NPR) Program.

However, these steps go only part of the way towards meeting the criteria for an integrated regulatory regime. Other factors include appropriate mechanisms to validate practical clinical experience and practitioner competency, better recognition of the areas and scope of professional practice, adoption of high standards of professional behaviour, a commitment to continuing professional development and the implementation of appropriate complaint and disciplinary mechanisms.

Integrating all these elements into an effective regulatory regime is seen as essential in delivering enhanced professional performance and ensuring consistently high quality of emergency paramedic care throughout Australia.

Recognising the need to take positive action in the public interest, the ACAP Board of Directors has commissioned a study by the Queensland University of Technology Faculty of Health under the direction of Professor Gerry Fitzgerald to explore the options available to ACAP in advancing progress towards paramedic regulation.

At its meeting held on the 26 April, the Board heard a report from Professor Fitzgerald on the work to date on the project and considered a discussion paper prepared by the project team. This report canvassed a wide range of issues, and in particular outlined some of the ramifications in developing a framework for regulation in a comprehensive Appendix.

Australian paramedics are strongly encouraged to read the discussion paper entitled, *Defining a Regulatory Framework for Paramedics* and provide comments either directly to one of the project team members: rbange@bigpond.net.au or gj.fitzgerald@qut.edu.au or, to the ACAP National Secretary, Les Hotchin at secretary@acap.org.au as soon as possible.

Your input on this issue is critical to advancing the project that you identified as important to our Profession, so I ask that you take the time to consider the paper and provide feedback. I look forward to your contributions.