National Scheme for Health Professionals

Progress on the implementation of a national registration and accreditation scheme will be discussed as part of the last Australian Health Ministers’ Conference for 2008.

The Health Minister Chris Burns said the Territory supported a national approach.

“A single national registration and accreditation scheme will be more efficient, reduce red tape and help put quality and patient safety first,” Dr Burns said.

“Specifically, a national scheme will ensure that a professional who has been banned from practising in one place is unable to practise elsewhere in Australia. This will provide greater safeguards for the public.”

The scheme will create a single national registration and accreditation system for nine health professions:

- medical practitioners
- nurses and midwives
- pharmacists
- physiotherapists
- psychologists
- osteopaths
- chiropractors
- optometrists
- dentists

Dr Burns said the Health Ministers will also discuss the Council of Australian Governments recent funding boost to the states and territories.

The Australian Health Ministers’ Conference is being held in Brisbane.

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