

# Submission guide

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05 September 2016

## Independent review of chaperones to protect patients

All interested individuals and organisations are invited to make a submission to the independent review on the use of chaperones to protect patients. The review will consider whether, and if so in what circumstances, it is appropriate to impose a chaperone condition on the registration of a health practitioner to protect patients while allegations of sexual misconduct are investigated.

The review is being undertaken independently of AHPRA and the Medical Board of Australia, by Professor Ron Paterson. Professor Paterson is an international expert on patients' rights, complaints, healthcare quality and the regulation of health professions.

Submissions can address any or all of the questions below, and you can include any evidence or examples you think relevant.

The closing date for submissions is close of business **Monday 3 October 2016**.

### Consultation questions

- Do you think chaperone conditions are an effective measure to protect patients, and why?
- If chaperone conditions are appropriate in some circumstances, what steps do you think need to be taken to ensure patients are protected and adequately informed?
- In what circumstances do you think chaperone conditions are not appropriate, and why?
- Can you suggest an alternative regulatory measure to protect patients while allegations of sexual misconduct are investigated?
- Do you have any general comments for the review to consider?

### How to make a submission

You can send written submissions to:

Professor Ron Paterson  
Chaperone Review  
c/- National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner  
GPO Box No 2630  
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Or email to: [ChaperoneReview@nhpopc.gov.au](mailto:ChaperoneReview@nhpopc.gov.au)

People making written submissions to the review may also request a face-to-face meeting with Professor Paterson in their submission. Please explain why you would like the opportunity to make an oral submission. Your request will be assessed on an individual basis.

The closing date for written submissions is close of business **Monday 3 October 2016**.

### Publication of submissions

At the end of the consultation period, submissions will generally be published on the [National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner](#) (NHPOPC) website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders. Please advise us if you do not want your submission published.

The review will accept submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth), which has provisions designed to protect

personal information and information given in confidence. Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your submission, or want us to treat all or part of it as confidential.

We will not place on the website, or make available to the public, submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the subject of the consultation. Before publication, we may remove personally-identifying information from submissions, including contact details.

The views expressed in the submissions are those of the individuals or organisations who submit them and their publication does not imply any acceptance of, or agreement with, these views by the review.

**Published submissions will include the names of the individuals and/or the organisations that made the submission, unless confidentiality is requested.**

### **Documents to assist in the drafting of your submission**

[Independent review of chaperones to protect the public - Terms of reference](#) (279 KB,PDF), [Word version](#) (97.6 KB,DOCX)

[Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009](#)

[The Regulatory Principles for the National Scheme](#)

[AHPRA Chaperone Protocol](#)

### **Do you have a complaint or concern about a registered health practitioner?**

The purpose of the review is to determine the appropriateness of imposing a chaperone condition on the registration of a health practitioner to protect patients while allegations of sexual misconduct are investigated. The review cannot look at specific complaints of sexual misconduct by a health practitioner. If you have a complaint or a concern about a registered health practitioner, you should contact AHPRA directly via its [website](#) or by calling 1300 419 495.

### **Where to go for help**

Discussions of sexual abuse can be distressing to survivors and their families. Support is available:

**Beyondblue: 1300 224 636**

**Lifeline: 131114**

**National sexual assault helpline 1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732**

### **Further information**

National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner: 1300 795 265