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Highlights

1. There has been an overall growth of 6% of registered practitioners in Victoria since the commencement of the National Scheme (not including the four new professions that entered the National Scheme on 1 July 2012).
2. Registered health practitioners in Victoria account for around 26% of registered health practitioners across Australia. This percentage has been largely consistent over the past three years.
3. There has been a 17% increase in notifications (complaints) about health practitioners in Victoria in 2012/13. This is a slightly higher increase than the national increase of 14%. The reasons for this increase are not known but reflect overseas trends.
4. Mandatory notifications have increased by 80% over the past year in Victoria, with nursing and midwifery accounting for 60% of these notifications, followed by medicine at 21%. These proportions have been largely consistent over the past three years.
5. The majority of mandatory notifications relate to departure from professional standards, followed by concerns about impairment and alcohol or drug use (7%).
6. The outcomes of mandatory notifications in Victoria once they have been closed after Board consideration and action if needed, is consistent with outcomes across Australia.
7. The majority of notifications come direct from patients, their relatives and the public (37%) or through the joint consideration process with the Health Services Commissioner (28%).
8. The top three reasons for notifications relate to clinical care (39%), pharmacy/medication (11%) and health impairment of the practitioner.
9. Following consideration by boards, 59% of notifications closed led to no further action; 19% were retained for action by the HSC; 9% of practitioners were cautioned; 7% led to conditions being imposed on registration.
10. Boards took immediate action on 80 matters when there was a serious concern raised about patient and public safety.

They restricted the practitioners' registration in 71% of these cases. The registration of 16 practitioners was suspended.

Table 1: Practitioners registered under the National Scheme by profession at 30 June 2013

Profession	June 2011		June 2012		July 12 – Dec 12		June 2013	
	Victoria	National	Victoria	National	Victoria	National	Victoria	National
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner					3	298	7	300
Chinese medicine practitioner					1,120	3,952	1,151	4,070
Chiropractor	1,138	4,350	1,202	4,462	1,260	4,610	1,260	4,657
Dental practitioner	4,092	19,319	4,358	19,087	4,564	19,759	4,633	19,912
Medical practitioner	21,238	88,293	22,365	91,648	22,391	91,749	23,402	95,690
Medical radiation practitioner					3,576	13,508	3,528	13,905
Midwife	625	1,789	747	2,187	789	2,426	747	2,434
Nurse	76,830	290,072	80,982	302,245	82,311	306,853	82,196	309,770
Nurse and midwife	10,375	40,324	10,297	39,271	8,521	33,363	8,654	33,751

	June 2011		June 2012		July 12 – Dec 12		June 2013	
Profession	Victoria	National	Victoria	National	Victoria	National	Victoria	National
Occupational therapist					3,406	14,255	3,634	15,101
Optometrist	1,094	4,442	1,163	4,568	1,166	4,586	1,199	4,635
Osteopath	715	1,595	843	1,676	899	1,761	915	1,769
Pharmacist	6,308	25,944	6,578	26,548	6,776	27,425	6,815	27,339
Physiotherapist	5,417	22,384	5,904	23,501	6,110	24,304	6,166	24,703
Podiatrist	1,084	3,461	1,195	3,690	1,239	3,825	1,247	3,873
Psychologist	7,735	29,142	8,009	29,645	8,091	29,984	8,220	30,561
Total	136,651	531,115	143,643	548,528	152,222	582,658	153,774	592,470

1. Table 1 – The Table demonstrates the increase in practitioner numbers in across all 14 registered health professions. There has been an overall growth of 6% of registered practitioners in Victoria since the commencement of the National Scheme (not including the four new professions that entered the National Scheme on 1 July 2012)

Table 2: Registered practitioners in Victoria as proportion of national registered workforce

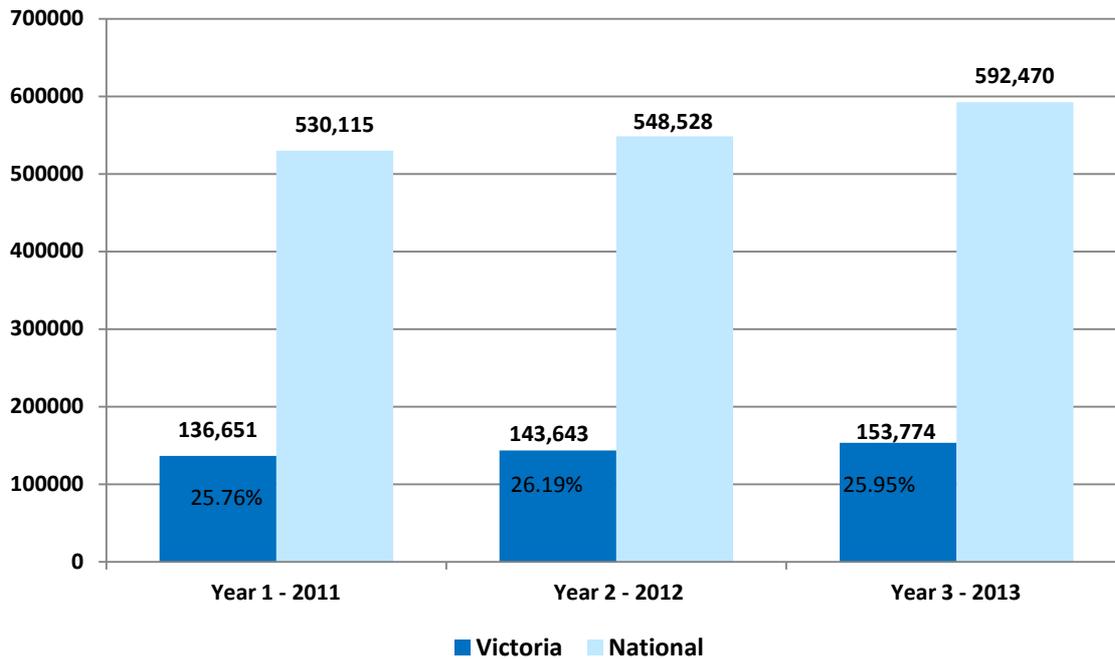


Table 2 – Registered health practitioners in Victoria account for around 26% of registered health practitioners in Australia. The proportion of Victorian practitioners in the national workforce is relatively stable. There is a slight relative increase in medical practitioners in Victoria; slight decrease in nursing and midwifery registrations but stability in number of actual practitioners registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia..

Table 5: Students registered by profession as at 30 June 2013

Profession	Total National
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner	69
Chinese Medicine Practitioner	1,169
Chiropractor	1,398
Dental Practitioner	3,823
Medical Practitioner	19,434
Medical Radiation Practitioner	3,573
Midwife	3,514
Nurse	62,451
Occupational Therapist	5,880
Optometrist	1,279
Osteopath	746
Pharmacist	7,885
Physiotherapist	8,161
Podiatrist	1,740
TOTAL	121,122

Table 6: Notifications received by type and professions – Victoria 2012/2013

	Chinese Medicine Practitioner	Chiropractor	Dental Practitioner	Medical Practitioner	Medical Radiation Practitioner	Midwife	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	To be confirmed	Total	%
Mandatory		1	3	41	1	4	120				8	2		20		200	11%
Voluntary	6	25	220	948	6	4	210	5	15	2	85	13	10	94	1	1644	89%
Total	6	26	223	989	7	8	330	5	15	2	93	15	10	114	1	1844	100%

Table 6 – There has been a 15% increase in notifications (complaints) about health practitioners in Victoria in 2012/13. This mirrors a national increase of 14%. The reasons for this increase are not known but reflect overseas trends.

Table 7: Mandatory notifications by profession – Victoria 2013

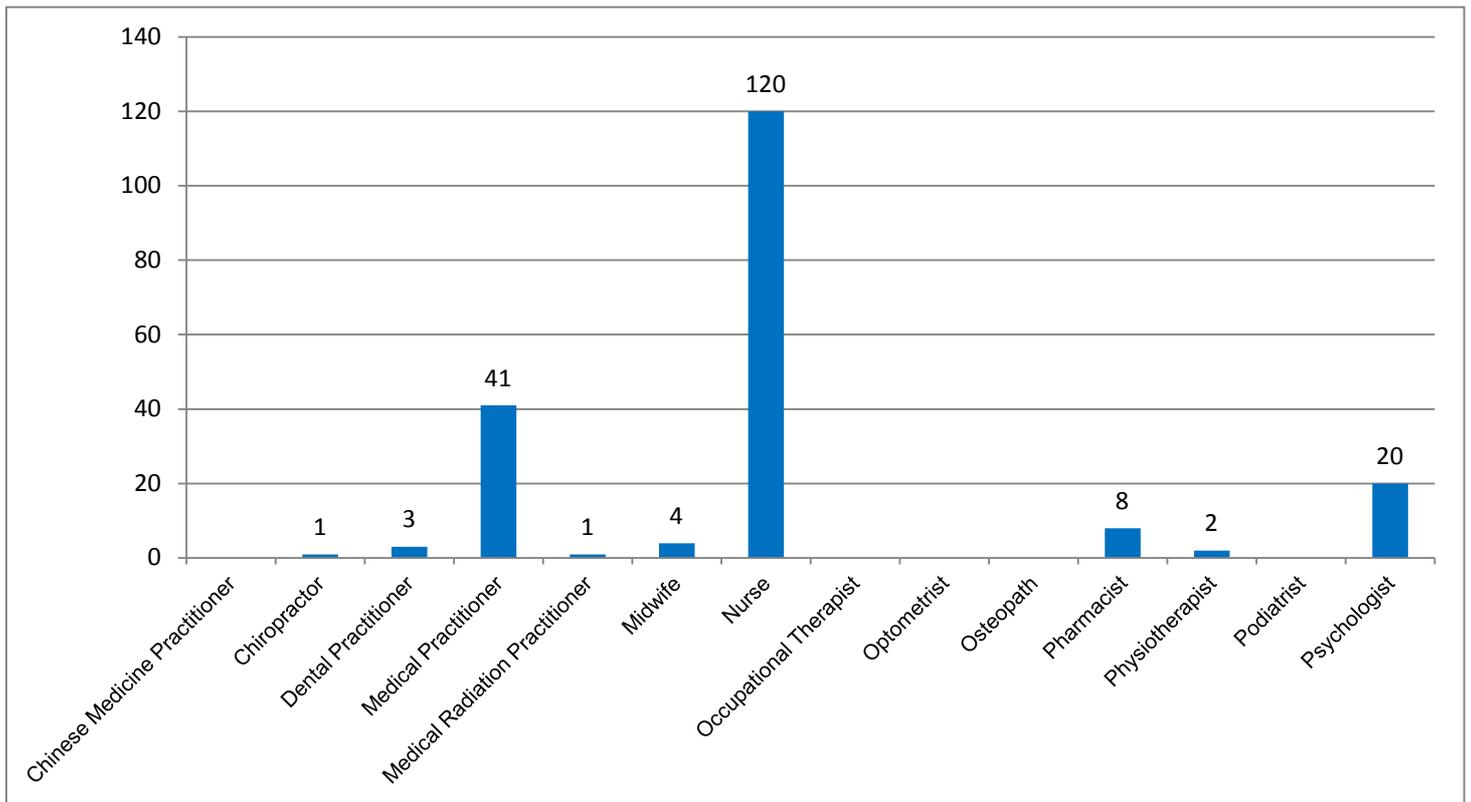


Table 7 - Mandatory notifications have increased by 80% over the past year in Victoria, with nursing and midwifery accounting for 60% of these notifications (most registered practitioners) followed by medicine at 21% (most complex profession). These proportions have been largely consistent over the past three years.

Table 7A (additional table): Mandatory notifications received by profession by grounds in Victoria

Profession	2012/13						2011/12						2010					
	Standards	Impairment	Alcohol or drugs	Sexual misconduct	Unknown	Total	Standards	Impairment	Alcohol or drugs	Sexual misconduct	Unknown	Total	Standards	Impairment	Alcohol or drugs	Sexual misconduct	Total	
Chiropractor	1					1												
Dental Practitioner	2	1				3							1					1
Medical Practitioner	25	7	5	4		41	13	6	5	1		25	12	28	1	5		46
Medical Radiation Practitioner		1				1												
Midwife	2		2			4												
Nurse	57	37	17	8	1	120	50	14	3	4	1	72	69	29	7	4		109
Pharmacist	5	3				8	4	2				6	3	1	1	2		7
Physiotherapist	1	1				2	3	1				4	1					1
Psychologist	17	1		2		20	1	2		1		4						
Total	110	51	24	14	1	200	71	25	8	6	1	111	86	58	9	11		164

Table 7A – The majority of mandatory notifications relate to departure from professional standards followed by concerns about impairment and alcohol or drug use.

Table 7B (Additional Table) - Outcome at closure for mandatory notifications closed in 2012/13 (regardless of when received) – Victoria

Closure outcome	Victoria		National (excluding Vic)	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
No further action	67	54.9%	246	55.5%
Refer all of the notification to another body	1	0.8%	3	0.7%
Caution	13	10.7%	69	15.6%
Reprimand		0.0%	2	0.5%
Accept undertaking	14	11.5%	61	13.8%
Impose conditions	26	21.3%	56	12.6%
Fine registrant		0.0%	2	0.5%
Practitioner surrender		0.0%	2	0.5%
Suspend registration	1	0.8%	1	0.2%
Cancel registration		0.0%	1	0.2%
Total	122	100.0%	443	100.0%

Table 7B- The outcomes of mandatory notifications, closed during 2012/13 after Board consideration and action if needed, was consistent with outcomes across Australia. Around 55% led to no further action; about 11% led to caution or reprimand (16% nationally); 33% to conditions or undertaking (26% nationally). Nationally, a mandatory report was three times more likely to result in immediate action than a voluntary notification.

Table 8 – Notifications received by source – Victoria 2012/13

Notification source	Chinese Medicine Practitioner	Chiropractor	Dental Practitioner	Medical Practitioner	Medical Radiation Practitioner	Midwife	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	Unknown	Total	%
Anonymous		2	5	18			9				3			2		39	2%
Drugs and Poisons			1	47							10					58	3%
Education Provider			1	1										3		5	0%
Employer			1	11	1	2	130				3	1		6		155	8%
Government Department		1		9			6					1		1		18	1%
HSC	1	1	111	348	2		25		7		3		6	5		509	28%
Health Advisory Service				6			1									7	0%
Hospital				2			13									15	1%
Insurance Company				1					1							2	0%
Lawyer				9		1								1		11	1%
Member of the Public			1	5			4				1			2		13	1%
Other Board			6	13			13				2	1		3	1	39	2%

Notification source	Chinese Medicine Practitioner	Chiropractor	Dental Practitioner	Medical Practitioner	Medical Radiation Practitioner	Midwife	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	Unknown	Total	%
Other Practitioner	1	12	11	56	2	3	46		2		15	2		34		184	10%
Patient	1	5	69	304	1		21	5	3		31	7	2	35		484	26%
Police				17			2				1					20	1%
Relative	1		5	111			22		2	1	18	1	1	16		178	10%
Self			2	5		1	11					1				20	1%
Treating Practitioner				3		1	8				1	1				14	1%
Unclassified	2	5	10	23	1		19		1		5		1	6		73	4%
Total	6	26	223	989	7	8	330	5	15	2	93	15	10	114	1	1844	100%

Table 8 - The majority of notifications come direct from patients, their relatives and the public (37%) or through the joint consideration process with the Health Services Commissioner (28%).

Table 10: Notifications received by issue category – Victoria 2012/13

Notifications Issue Category	Chinese Medicine Practitioner	Chiropractor	Dental Practitioner	Medical Practitioner	Medical Radiation Practitioner	Midwife	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	To be confirmed	Total	%
Behaviour			4	34			35		1					3		77	4%
Billing			16	23					1		1		1	2		44	2%
Boundary violation		2		52			12				1	1		19		87	5%
Clinical Care	2	5	128	444	3	5	81	1	10		3	7	6	21		716	39%
Communication		1	14	55	1		9	1	1		8	2	1	14		107	6%
Confidentiality				17			3	1		1	2			7		31	2%
Conflict of Interest														1		1	0%
Discrimination				1												1	0%
Documentation	1	1	4	59			2	1	1			1		9		79	4%
Health Impairment		1	3	34	1	3	77				4	2	1	3		129	7%
Infection / Hygiene			7	6									1			14	1%
Informed Consent			7	15			1							1		24	1%
Medico-legal conduct				32										6		38	2%
National Law Breach			8	8			9							1		26	1%
National Law Offence			2	2			2				2	1		3		12	1%

Notifications Issue Category	Chinese Medicine Practitioner	Chiropractor	Dental Practitioner	Medical Practitioner	Medical Radiation Practitioner	Midwife	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	To be confirmed	Total	%
Offence		1		4			9			1	2			2		19	1%
Other	1		3	17	1		13		1		3			9		48	3%
Pharmacy / Medication			1	97			48				52			1		199	11%
Research/ Teaching / Asses				1												1	0%
Response to Adverse Event							1									1	0%
Teamwork / Supervision			1				7				2			1		11	1%
Unclassified	2	15	25	88	1		21	1			13	1		11	1	179	10%
Total	6	26	223	989	7	8	330	5	15	2	93	15	10	114	1	1844	100%

Table 10 - The top three reasons for notifications relate to clinical care (39%), pharmacy/medication (11%) and health impairment of the practitioner (7%).

Table 12: National Law notifications closed by outcome at closure – Victoria 2012/13

Outcome at Closure	Chinese Medicine Practitioner	Chiropractor	Dental Practitioner	Medical Practitioner	Medical Radiation Practitioner	Midwife	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	Total	%
No further action	2	3	77	519	2	1	154	2	11	1	48	9	6	82	917	59%
Refer all of the notification to another body			5	3							1			1	10	1%
Refer part of the notification to another body				1											1	0%
HCE to Retain	1		68	207	2		9		2		2		2	3	296	19%
Caution		4	11	61	1		23	1		1	25			9	136	9%
Reprimand			1	3			3			1	2			5	15	1%
Accept undertaking		1	12	13			36					1		4	67	4%
Impose conditions	1	6	11	15	2	2	50		1		1	1		14	104	7%
Fine registrant			1												1	0%
Practitioner Surrender				2			1								3	0%
Suspend registration				1			1								2	0%
Total	4	14	186	825	7	3	277	3	14	3	79	11	8	118	1552	100%

Table 12 - Following consideration by boards, 59% of notifications closed led to no further action; 19% were retained for action by the HSC; 9% of practitioners were cautioned; 7% of notifications led to conditions being imposed on registration.

Table 13: National Law notifications closed by stage at closure - Victoria 2012/13

Stage at closure	Chinese Medicine Practitioner	Chiropractor	Dental Practitioner	Medical Practitioner	Medical Radiation Practitioner	Midwife	Nurse	Occupational Therapist	Optometrist	Osteopath	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	Total	%
Preliminary Assessment	4	3	134	617	5		133	3	13		32	9	7	71	1031	66%
Investigation		8	35	151		1	62			1	32	2	1	21	314	20%
Health or Performance Assessment		1	3	12	1	2	62				2			5	88	6%
Panel Hearing		2	13	43	1		20		1	2	12			14	108	7%
Tribunal Hearing			1	2							1			7	11	1%
Total	4	14	186	825	7	3	277	3	14	3	79	11	8	118	1552	100%
*Note: stage of closure of prior law matters not provided																

Table 13 – Of notifications closed in 2012/13 after consideration by boards, 66% were closed after preliminary assessment; 20% were closed after investigation; 7% after a panel hearing and 1% after a tribunal hearing.

Table 14: Immediate action outcomes - Victoria 2012/13

Outcomes of immediate action	Dental Practitioner	Medical Practitioner	Medical Radiation Practitioner	Nurse	Pharmacist	Physiotherapist	Podiatrist	Psychologist	Total
Not take immediate action	3	11		7	1	1			23
Accept undertaking	1			12	1				14
Impose conditions	1	14	1	7	2			1	26
Accept surrender of registration				1					1
Suspend registration		1		14			1		16
Total	5	26	1	41	4	1	1	1	80

Table 14 - Boards took immediate action on 80 matters when there was a serious concern raised about patient and public safety. They restricted the practitioners' registration in 71% of these cases. The registration of 16 practitioners was suspended.