1. On 26 March 2008, the Council of Australian Governments signed an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide for a single national registration and accreditation scheme for health professions (the National Scheme).
2. Health professions must meet six criteria for inclusion in the National Scheme.
3. The dental technology and speech pathology professions have twice been denied inclusion into the National Scheme, as the professions were deemed to not meet all of the criteria for national registraiton. In particular, the professions were considered to represent either a very low or no risk to the public and the cost of regulation therefore outweighed any possible benefits to the public.
4. No other jurisdiction in Australia registers speech pathologists and dental technicians. Speech pathologists were previously registered for a short period in the Northern Territory, but otherwise Queensland is the only other state to have registered speech pathologists. Dental technicians have previously been registered in New South Wales, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. However, these jurisdictions discontinued registration after the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council declined to nationally register dental technicians.
5. The continued registration of these professions in Queensland creates a barrier to practitioners from other states moving to Queensland.
6. The Health Practitioner Registration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 will:
* repeal the *Dental Technicians Registration Act 2001* and the *Speech Pathologists Registration Act 2001*;
* repeal the *Health Practitioner Registration Boards (Administration) Act 1999*;
* amend the *Health Practitioner (Professional Standards) Act 1999* to rescind its application to speech pathologists and dental technicians; and
* consequentially amend various Health and other portfolio Acts which refer to Acts, bodies and matters affected by the abolishment of registration for dental technicians and speech pathologists.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Health Practitioner Registration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Health Practitioner Registration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)