Supplementary FAQs

1. How can I get registration as a paramedic?

A: All applicants for registration must meet all registration standards developed by the Paramedicine Board (once appointed) and approved by Australian Health Ministers. There are five mandated registration standards that the Paramedicine Board must develop. These will set requirements for recency of practice, continuing professional development, English language skills, professional indemnity insurance arrangements, and criminal history of applicants for registration. In addition, there are three basic pathways to seek general registration as a paramedic.

a) Applicants who hold approved qualifications
   Approved qualifications will be determined by the Paramedicine Board after it is established.

b) Applicants who hold an accepted qualification
   These applicants will have an Ambulance Service of NSW vocational qualification as specified in the National Law.

c) Applicants eligible for grand-parenting
   Many people who do not hold either of the above types of qualifications but are currently practising as paramedics. These practitioners will be eligible to seek registration based on other qualifications, training and experience, or experience. This may include where an applicant:
   - Holds a qualification or has completed training in paramedicine, whether in Australia or elsewhere that the Paramedicine Board considers adequate to practise the profession;
   - Holds a qualification or has completed training in paramedicine, whether in Australia or elsewhere, and has completed any further study, training or supervised practice required by the Paramedicine Board; or
   - Has practised paramedicine during the 10 years prior to the commencement of national registration of paramedics. This may a consecutive period of practise over 5 years or for any periods which together amount to 5 years. The Paramedicine Board must also be satisfied that the applicant is competent to practise the profession.

Note the opportunity to seek registration under the grand-parenting provisions is time-limited and will be available for a period of three years after national registration of paramedics starts. Registration of paramedics is expected to commence in late 2018.
More information on how to apply to be registered as a paramedic will be provided after the Paramedicine Board is established and is working with AHPRA to help prepare the paramedicine profession for national registration.

2. Do I need to be registered as a paramedic before I can apply and be appointed as a practitioner member on the National Board?

A: It is a requirement under the National Law for practitioner members to be registered in order to be eligible for appointment to a National Board. However, special arrangements will apply for first-time appointments of practitioner members to the Paramedicine Board. These special arrangements for appointing practitioner members will apply during the pre-registration period, so that paramedics can be appointed to the Board and work with AHPRA to prepare the paramedic profession for regulation under the National Scheme.

The special arrangements are needed because practitioner members will be appointed to the Board as soon as possible after the Bill is debated and passed by the Queensland Parliament later in 2017. However, national registration of paramedics does not start until the ‘participation day’ (expected to be late 2018). After the participation day practitioner members will need to be registered in order to continue their appointment on the Board.

The Ministerial Council will be given the authority to appoint practitioner members to the Paramedicine Board. The Council must be satisfied that the practitioner members appointed have the skills and experience in paramedicine that are relevant to the Board’s functions. This is the same authority that Ministers had in 2011 when the new National Boards for four other professions were first appointed and national registration for those health professions had also not yet started.

Public advertisements will call for expressions of interest in appointment as practitioner members to the Paramedicine Board. Interested paramedics will be able to complete an application form outlining relevant skills and experience so that the Ministerial Council can make appointment decisions. Every person appointed to a National Board receives an instrument of appointment from the Ministerial Council setting out the terms and conditions of the appointment.