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# AHPRA is considered 'pro-practitioner': KPMG



[Paddy Wood \(/author/paddy-wood\)](#) 22 March 2016



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AHPRA has been advised to address community perceptions that its work is "pro-practitioner".

The recommendation is [one of five \(http://www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2016-03-22-Summary-of-independent-review.aspx\)](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2016-03-22-Summary-of-independent-review.aspx) in a KPMG audit ordered after the agency came under fire for taking more than two years to manage a notification about a senior doctor at Bacchus Marsh Hospital in Victoria, where several babies died in avoidable circumstances.

The audit, which involved a review of policies and procedural documentation, also recommends:

- A more systematic and data-informed approach to assessing notifications, taking into account factors such as a practitioner's history of notifications, their practice context and who made the notification.
- Throwing more resources at higher-risk notifications, so they are investigated thoroughly but quickly.
- Greater transparency and better information-sharing with the public.
- Continually evaluating the cause of delays, especially in high-risk cases.

"We have acted on all the recommendations of the review, which support many of the changes we had already made and others that were already in train when we received the report," says AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher in a statement.

Initial risk assessments of complaints will now be done by senior AHPRA staff, direct phone contact will be made with complaint lodgers and a notifications liaison officer has been created.

AHPRA [also says \(http://www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2016-03-22-media-release.aspx\)](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2016-03-22-media-release.aspx) it is investigating numerous practitioners at Bacchus Marsh Hospital over the cluster of avoidable baby deaths in 2013 and 2014, but is declining to name names.

The board was sacked last year over the deaths and replaced with an administrator.

Obstetrics expert Euan Wallace last year led a review into the deaths of 10 babies, and found seven could have been avoided.

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### Digital Editor

Paddy joined Medical Observer in 2015 from the Australian Associated Press, where he ran the agency's technology coverage before joining the Sydney bureau to report on crime, politics and courts. His stories have appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Korea Herald*, *The Australian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, and others.

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