

Decision Guide: Mandatory Reporting for Notifiable Conduct

What are mandatory notifications?

All registered health practitioners have a professional and ethical obligation to protect and promote public health and safe healthcare. Under the National Law, health practitioners, employers and education providers also have some mandatory reporting responsibilities.

What is a reasonable belief?

The threshold to require mandatory reporting is high. 'Reasonable belief' is a term commonly used in legislation, including in criminal, consumer and administrative law. While it is not defined in the National Law, in general, a reasonable belief is a belief based on reasonable grounds.

Note: Anyone can make a voluntary notification at any time.

Each National Board has published guidelines on mandatory notifications for its profession, which are published on each National Board's website. These guidelines help individuals to decide whether they are required to make a mandatory notification or not.

Mandatory notification requirements for employers and registered health practitioners

The National Law requires registered health practitioners and employers of registered health practitioners, to advise AHPRA or a National Board if they have formed a reasonable belief that a health practitioner has behaved in a way that constitutes notifiable conduct in relation to the practice of their profession.

Notifiable conduct by registered health practitioners is defined as:

- practising while intoxicated by alcohol or drugs
- sexual misconduct in the practice of the profession
- placing the public at risk of substantial harm because of an impairment (health issue), or
- placing the public at risk because of a significant departure from accepted professional standards.

For more information on mandatory and voluntary reporting visit:

<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Notifications/Raise-a-concern/Mandatory-notifications.aspx>

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